EXPLORE HISTORIC MAPS OF LONDON

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 214 FEBRUARY 2024

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?®

SCOTTISH BIRTHS MASTERCLASS

RECORDS FROM THE WORKHOUSE

Uncover your ancestors' lives with our complete guide to these Poor Law documents

FAMILY TRAVELS

Find records of your forebears' journeys

HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

The best websites for tracing victims

My ancestor's brush with death at the siege of Ladysmith

BIGAMY IN THE FAMILY Was your relative married to more than one person?

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- The history of tuberculosis
- Uncover your Kent connections
- An 18th-century court case

This was Sylvia's promise to you...

A generation ago, a woman named Sylvia made a promise. As a doctor's secretary, she'd watched stroke destroy the lives of so many people. She was determined to make sure we could all live in a world where we're far less likely to lose our lives to stroke.

She kept her promise, and a gift to the Stroke Association was included in her Will. Sylvia's gift helped fund the work that made sure many more of us survive stroke now than did in her lifetime.

Sylvia changed the story for us all. Now it's our turn to change the story for those who'll come after us.

Stroke still shatters lives and tears families apart. And for so many survivors the road to recovery is still long and desperately lonely. If you or someone you love has been affected by stroke – you'll know just what that means.

But it doesn't have to be like this. You can change the story, just like Sylvia did, with a gift in your Will. All it takes is a promise.

You can promise future generations a world where researchers discover new treatments and surgeries and every single stroke survivor has the best care, rehabilitation and support network possible, to help them rebuild their lives.

Big or small, every legacy gift left to the Stroke Association will make a difference to stroke survivors and their families.

Find out how by calling 020 7566 1505

or email legacy@stroke.org.uk

or visit stroke.org.uk/legacy

Rebuilding lives after stroke

The Stroke Association is registered as a charity in England and Wales (No 211015) and in Scotland (SC037789).
Also registered in the Isle of Man (No. 945) and Jersey (NPO 369), and operating as a charity in Northern Ireland.

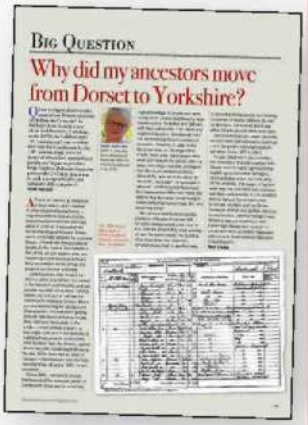
Stroke Association

Welcome

Sarah's Top Tip

Try reaching out to local historians as they may have answers to your queries

I enjoyed Alan Crosby's answer to Hazel's question in our Q&A section this month (**page 49**). By contacting local historians in the area her ancestors had migrated to, he not only answered her question as to why they were there, he also added insight into how they were living and what they were doing. As family historians we usually focus on named records but local history can be key and who better to ask than a local historian.


BIG QUESTION

Why did my ancestors move from Dorset to Yorkshire?

Not long ago I didn't think any of the people on my family tree had faced the ignomy and hardship of the workhouse. How wrong I was! If you have family who were scraping a living as agricultural labourers or living in city slums, the workhouse would have loomed large over their lives. Whether you find them staying briefly when the harvest was poor, as I did, or spending their final years there when family could not longer support them, our guide to workhouse records on **page 14** should give you a helpful overview of what you may uncover.

I was fascinated to read about the different attitudes to bigamy on **page 28** followed by reader Josie Aslett's Family Hero story on **page 74** that involved a serial bigamist. When divorce was not an option for most people and marriage was expected, it's not surprising that bigamy was rife. Do tell me about any bigamists you uncover!

For those with Scottish roots, we have a masterclass on birth records on **page 42** and tips for finding family in Kent on **page 61**.

Finally, if, like me, you are getting through the colder months by thinking about summer holidays, then perhaps our feature on travel records will help to distract you (**page 31**). We tend to associate passenger lists with migration, but I've found family who travelled for work or to visit other family members. *Bon voyage!*

Sarah

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Contributors

Peter Higginbotham
A renowned expert on workhouses, Peter is the creator of **workhouses.org.uk** and **childrenshomes.org.uk**. Turn to **page 14** for his guide to the fascinating records you may find.

Rebecca Probert
As a professor of family law and the author of *Marriage Law for Genealogists*, Rebecca is perfectly placed to explain the ins and outs of the thorny topic of bigamy on **page 28**.

Chloe O'Shea
Chloe is a qualified genealogist with a passion for telling stories. On **page 31** she looks at the records left by your travelling forebears. Follow her at **thepastrevealed.co.uk**.

COVER IMAGE: GETTY IMAGES/YOUNG TRAVELLERS AT WATERLOO STATION, DECEMBER 1928

CONTENTS
FEBRUARY 2024

FEATURES

14 Workhouse Records ON THE COVER
Peter Higginbotham's comprehensive guide to the documents generated by the Poor Law that may tell you more about the lives of your destitute forebears

28 Bigamy ON THE COVER
Bigamy laws have changed over the centuries. Fairly constant, though, is the differing treatment of female and male bigamists. Rebecca Probert explains

54 Tuberculosis Sanitoria
Michelle Higgs investigates the development of special hospitals where our ancestors were treated for TB

RESEARCH ADVICE

31 Focus On ON THE COVER
Chloe O'Shea shares her expert advice for locating and using records left by people who travelled overseas – whether to start new lives or for work or leisure

37 Best Websites ON THE COVER
Jonathan Scott reveals his go-to list of online resources for researching ancestors touched by the Holocaust

42 Record Masterclass ON THE COVER
Chris Paton explains how to trace your Scottish ancestors' births using civil registration records

52 Tech Tips ON THE COVER
Nick Peers reveals an essential guide to finding your forebears in old maps of England's capital city with Layers of London

YOUR RESEARCH

24 Reader Story
Lucy Rushton is fascinated by the adventures of her family who worked as missionaries in East Asia – so much so that it has prompted her to write a novel

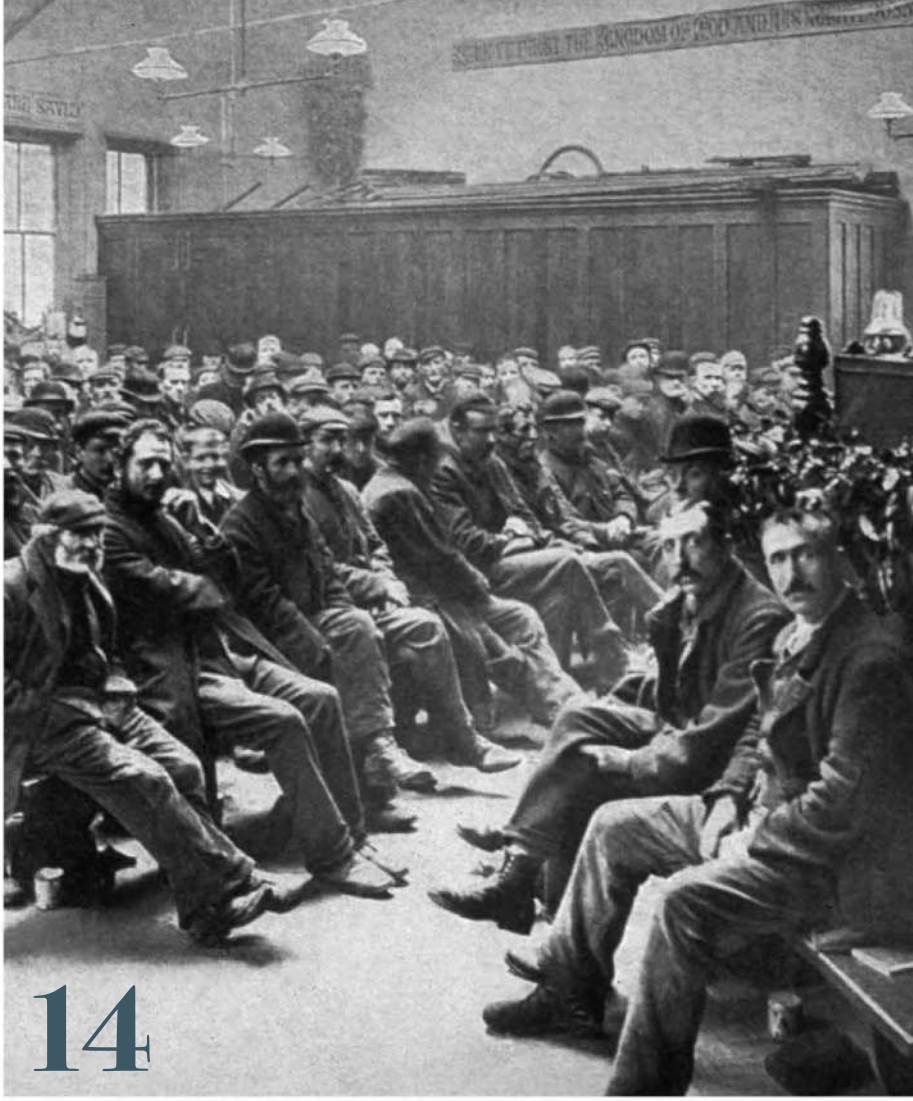
58 Eureka Moment
It was a will that revealed Tracie Jackson's ancestral links with a very influential Irish forebear

74 Family Hero ON THE COVER
Josie Aslett is hugely proud of her grandfather, Edward Tadgell, who survived the siege of Ladysmith

REGULARS

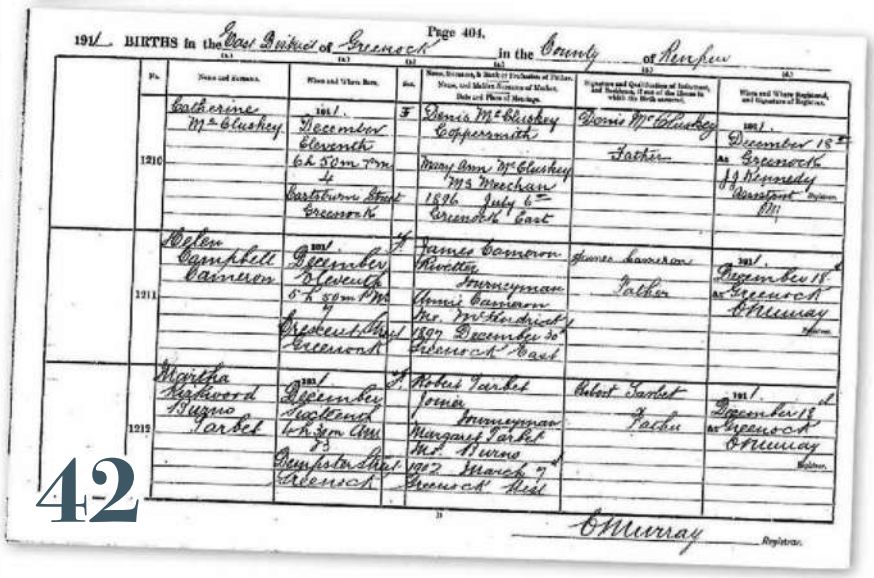
6 Letters
Your ideas, comments and advice

9 What's On
Online and in-person talks, shows and exhibitions

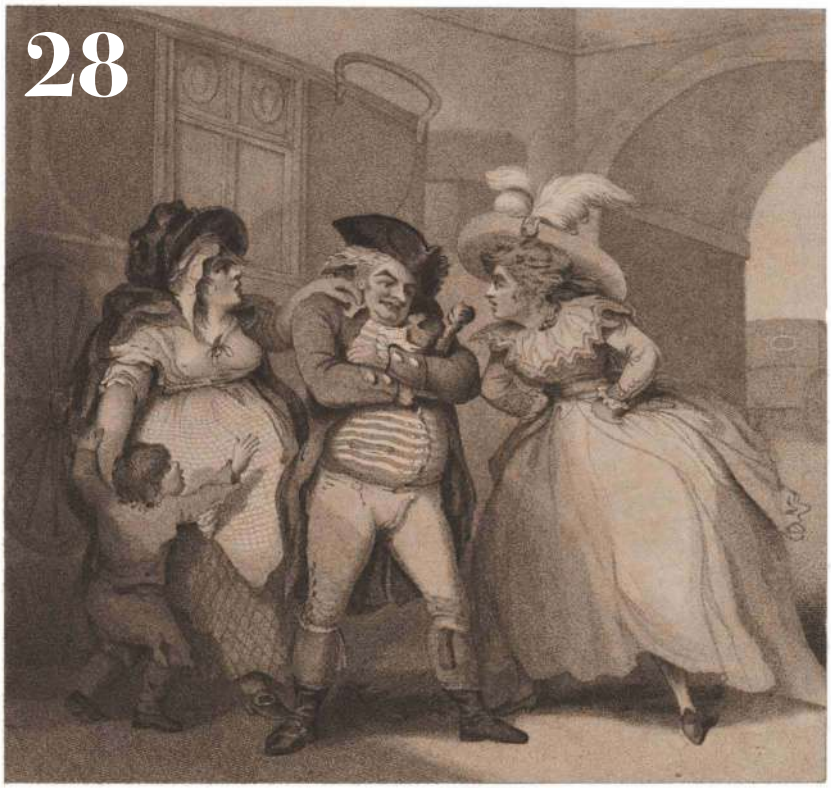

14

45

24


1911 BIRTHS in the East District of Greenock Page 404. in the County of Renfrew
42

GETTY IMAGES/UNP



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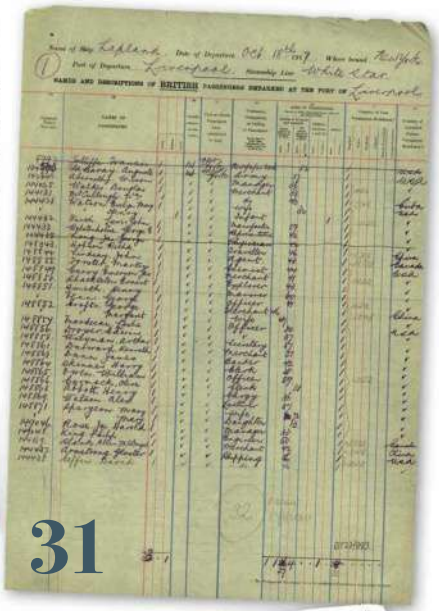

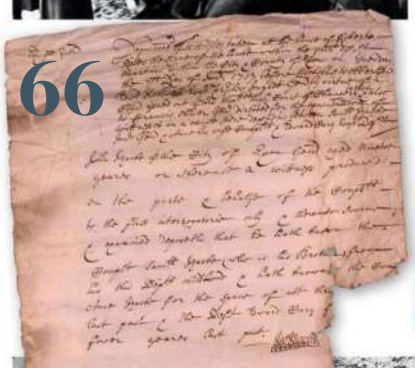

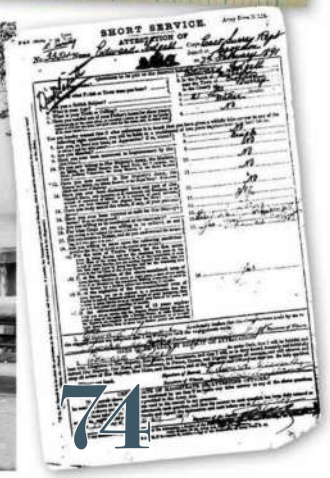

GETTY IMAGES

10 News
All of the latest developments, including plans to scan post-1858 wills and destroy the originals, MyHeritage's new AI tools and the Research Hub opening in London

13 Off The Record
Alan Crosby recalls how his grandparents did their bit in Manchester during the Second World War

45 Q&A
This month's queries include the riddle of a convict's past, why a reader's Dorset ancestors relocated to Saddleworth, and how to use AncestryDNA's ThuLines

51 *Wdytya? Magazine* Shop
Back issues, magazine storage and certificate binders

60 Your Projects
Rosemary Collins meets historians at Valentines Mansion, Essex, who are researching former residents

61 Around Britain ON THE COVER
Jonathan Scott digs into the archives in Kent to help you find your roots in the Garden of England

66 Gem From The Archive ON THE COVER
A dramatic court case about an 18th-century elopement

GUIDE

68 Books & Digital Picks
This month's family history inspiration

70 TV & Radio
The statistics of royal genetics with Dr Adam Rutherford

Letters

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WIN an AncestryDNA test kit from **ancestry.co.uk**
WORTH £79

The writer of our star letter wins an AncestryDNA test **worth £79** – so drop us a line and share your thoughts with us.

Burntwood Omission

STAR LETTER

The 'Around Britain' feature on Staffordshire that appeared in the March 2020 edition overlooked the existence of the Burntwood Family History Group. The December 2023 edition manages to repeat the oversight. I am tempted to misquote Oscar Wilde! Perhaps a more comprehensive explanation of our activities is in order.

The Burntwood Family History Group was founded in 1986 by a group of local enthusiasts – some of whom remain involved to this day. We draw most of our current membership from a wide area in and around southern Staffordshire. This includes the Burntwood area itself, the three-spired cathedral city of Lichfield, the villages of Cannock Chase, and the northern parts of the Black Country (most of which was originally part of Staffordshire). We have members dotted across the UK; and even some in Canada and Australia.

The famous Staffordshire Hoard was discovered in a field less than three miles from our current meeting place. Evidence of the area's mining past abounds, in the memorials to the miners and in the names of public houses. The M6 Toll Road now provides a fast route through the area, a modern alternative to the Roman Watling Street (A5). A canal restoration project is well underway linking past and present.

In common with all groups, we were forced to adapt to the restrictions imposed by Covid. Through meetings held on Zoom, we uncovered a hidden benefit as distant members were able to join with local members for the first time. We now hold hybrid meetings, with the physical proceedings being streamed live. In 2018, a major upgrade to our website (**bfhg.org.uk/**) allowed edited versions of many of our Zoom talks to be posted on the website.

We hold two evening meetings every month. The second Monday in the month sees a formal meeting, usually with a guest speaker. We run a drop-in surgery/research evening on the fourth Monday of the month, where members and non-members have access to the Group's collective expertise, as well as the excellent IT facilities available at our venue. We offer research help at the local library one afternoon a month. More recently, we have started delivering talks on family history to groups such as the WI.

Members of the Burntwood Family History Group with biographies written for the Memorial Project

The Burntwood Memorial Project marked the centenary of the Great War

In addition, we have transcribed many of the local parish records and nonconformist registers from the surrounding area. Originally released on CD, these are now available on USB sticks and also via Findmypast (**findmypast.co.uk**).

The 25th anniversary of the Group's formation saw the launch of the Burntwood Memorial Project to mark the centenary of the Great War. Group members researched the stories behind the names on local war memorials. Commemorative biographies were written about the soldiers who served and – in most cases – gave their lives for their country. These are on our website.

We arrange visits to places of interest too. The National Memorial Arboretum is on our doorstep. Last year we took a coach party to the Imperial War Museum North. We have also arranged a couple of trips to the WW1 battlefields of Belgium and Northern France.

A warm welcome awaits any visitor to Burntwood Family History Group.

Keith Stanley
Chair, Burntwood Family History Group

Editor Replies **Keith, we are so sorry that we missed you off our Staffordshire list for a second time. I hope that you enjoy your prize DNA test kit and I'm sure your description of your society's activities will encourage some of our readers to join.**

A Tuneful History

In Alan Crosby's 'While Shepherds Watched' piece he says that the "words of the carol fit perfectly to the familiar tune" [Ilkla Moor baht 'at]. The tune (Cranbrook) was written as a hymn tune around 1800 by Thomas Clark, and was first sung to the hymn 'Grace 'tis a charming sound', but was soon adopted for Nahum Tate's 'While shepherds Watched'. The words to 'Ilkla Moor baht 'at' were supposedly written about 50 years after Clark composed Cranbrook, by members of Halifax Church Choir while on a rambling outing to Ilkley Moor, (possibly fuelled by lunchtime Yorkshire Ale in a local pub).

The tune appears to be coming back into favour as a hymn tune, due, in part, to the Yorkshire folk singer Kate Rusby, who featured it on her Christmas album *While Mortals Sleep* and in her Christmas concerts, where she sings two other versions of the hymn – 'Sweet Bells' and 'Hail Chime On' – which feature on her Christmas album *Sweet Bells*.

Peter Rollin by email

EDITOR REPLIES **Having learned Ilkley Moor at school, I find it very hard to imagine the tune was ever a hymn!**

A Singing Surprise

I was fascinated and intrigued by Alan's article on how the carol 'While Shepherds Watched' was sung to the tune of 'Ilkley Moor', but I could not quite picture how it would sound.

My wife is a member of a local choir, Purbrook (Hampshire) Community Choir, and I attended their annual Christmas concert. I had no idea what they were going to sing, so you can imagine my surprise when the carol was sung to 'Ilkely Moor'.

It was a real treat to have the article brought to life, and (with a bit of bias) a wonderful rendition by the choir.

John Maxey by email

EDITOR REPLIES **What a happy coincidence. I'm glad Alan's column was so beautifully brought to life for you.**

98326
TOP SECRET
M.I.9/Gen/
MIS-X

PART I.

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BRITISH/AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.

1. No. RANK PTE SURNAME GOWARD
CHRISTIAN NAMES LESLIE WILLIAM GEORGE.
DECORATIONS
2. SHIP (R.N., U.S.N. or MERCHANT NAVY)
UNIT (ARMY) 2nd BATT. GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGT.
SQUADRON (R.A.F. or A.A.F.)
3. DIVISION (ARMY), COMMAND (R.A.F. or A.A.F.)
4. DATE OF BIRTH 12-6-18.
5. DATE OF ENLISTMENT
6. CIVILIAN TRADE OR PROFESSION (OR EXAMINATIONS PASSED WHILE P/W) COAL MERCHANT.
7. PRIVATE ADDRESS 12 MILLBROOK STREET, GLOUCESTER.
8. PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGINAL CAPTURE
9. WERE YOU WOUNDED WHEN CAPTURED? NO.
10. MAIN CAMPS OR HOSPITALS IN WHICH IMPRISONED.

Camp No.	Location	From	Till
STALAG XXA	THORN (POLAND)	23/6/40	15/10/40
STALAG XXB	MARIENBURG	16/10/40	[illegible]

11. WERE YOU IN A WORKING CAMP?

Location	From	Till	Nature of Work
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	ROAD-WORK.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	FARM-LABOURER.
MARIENBURG	[illegible]	[illegible]	SUGAR FACTORY.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	FARM-LABOURER
BERENT	[illegible]	[illegible]	SAW-MILL

12. DID YOU SUFFER FROM ANY SERIOUS ILLNESSES WHILE A P/W?
Nature of Illness Cause Duration

(b) DID YOU RECEIVE ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT?

Gill's Dad's account of his internment in a German Prisoner of War camp really give an understanding of what he suffered at the hands of his captors

POW Records

I was so interested to read the article about the POW questionnaires. My Dad was captured on his way back to Dunkirk and was a POW until the end of the war. He wrote what he called "the story of my travels" (now in the Imperial War Museum) when he returned and we knew from a couple of postcards that he had been in Stalag XX-B and that he had done some road building and worked on farms, but it was fascinating to see his list, with exact dates of where, when and at what he worked. The list includes working in a sugar factory in Marienburg and in a saw mill in Berent.

You mentioned that few people completed the section on further details but my Dad did. He commented that: "General treatment of POWs by German authorities and guards was bad especially after a heavy raid on Germany."

I attach copies of the three pages. Not very easy to read but they add to our understanding of what he went through.

Gill McAlister by email

EDITOR REPLIES **I'm so glad our article helped you find this record. Thank you for sharing it.**

London Omission

Thank you for the interesting and informative Around Britain on London by Jonathan Scott in the Christmas 2023 issue.

I was pleased to see included Hillingdon Museum & Archives Services at Uxbridge library; however, Hillingdon FHS was not included. Its website address is **hfhs.org.uk**.

This society covers the ancient Middlesex parishes of Cowley, Harefield, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Hayes, Ickenham, Ruislip, West Drayton and other localities within the borough including Colham Green, Eastcote, Northwood, Uxbridge and Yeading.

PS: Despite the re-organisation in 1974, to people who live here, Middlesex is not a "former" county as stated in the article!

A member of the Hillingdon FHS, by email

EDITOR REPLIES **Although we didn't knowingly leave out Hillingdon FHS, we did have to omit some resources due to space limits.**

Will Tip

The current issue of the magazine has a letter from Brian Nicholls, about trying to pay for a will from the probate search website.

The trick would seem to be to click on the word Visa (or whatever sort of card one has), not the image of a card.

Hugh Casement by email

Will Tip 2

With regard to Brian Nichols' email and his problem with the Government's probate website mentioned in this month's readers letters, I had a similar problem when trying to order copies of birth, marriage and death certificates from the General Register Office (GRO) website and the process would fail at the payment screen. I have a VPN, which protects my IP address from hackers and fraudsters. I discovered that turning this off during my transaction enabled the GRO site to work correctly. Maybe Brian also

Teresa Eckford responded to our post about parish chest records: Parish chest records can be invaluable – using them I was able to confirm the burial of a woman with my 5x great grandmother's name was indeed her.

has a VPN and could try this? **Graham Ross**

Editor Replies It certainly seems as if Brian wasn't the only reader to have problems with the Government's probate website. It does make me worry about their plans to move to digital only (see news story, page 10).

Martin has flagged up two useful sites for researching Canadian ancestors

Canadian Connections

I enjoyed your article on Best Websites for Canada (issue 204, page 35) but feel you should know about two other excellent and useful Canadian websites that were not mentioned.

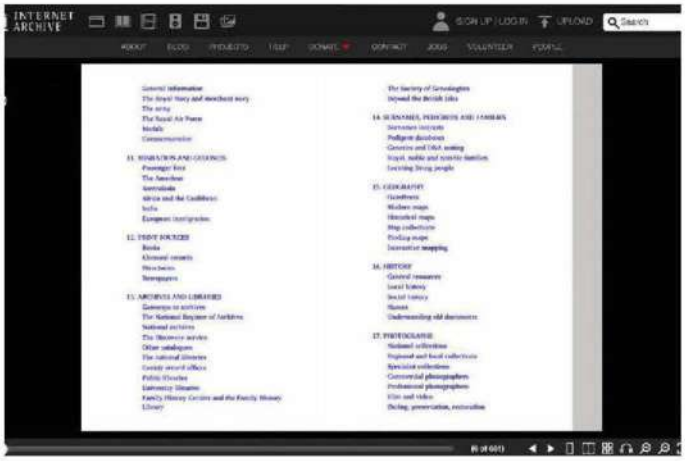
The Royal BC Museum website (**search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy**) enables users to download birth records (1854–1903), marriage records (1871–1947), death records (1872–2002), colonial marriages (1859–1872) and baptisms (1836–1888) for relevant events that took place in the province of British Columbia.

The Provincial Archives of Alberta website (**provincialarchives.alberta.ca/how-to/find-birth-marriage-and-death-records**) has indexes for births (1870–1903), marriages (1870–1948), deaths (1870–1973), stillbirths (1914–1946) and indigenous marriages (1923–1945) that occurred in Alberta. All indexes are arranged alphabetically by name and year and are in pdf format.

Photocopies of the original documents can be ordered from the Archives at a cost of 79 cents (Canadian) each plus postage or, alternatively, digital copies delivered via e-mail can be ordered at a cost of $5.25 (Canadian) each. The website has links to the various order forms for both methods and the various categories.

Genealogists will find both these websites extremely useful. **Martin Connell, Keswick, Ontario, Canada**

Editor Replies Thank you for sharing these Martin. They both look like excellent websites.



The Genealogist's Internet was published back in 2012. The author Peter Christian is making a version with updated links freely available on the internet

Free Access To Genealogy Book

My book *The Genealogist's Internet* is now almost 12 years old, and a lot has changed in online genealogy in that time.

Having recently secured reversion of the rights from Bloomsbury, I have decided to release the text of the book under a Creative Commons licence (CC BY-SA 4.0). Under this licence, the book can be freely downloaded and distributed, and anyone is also free to use extracts and revise or adapt the text for any purpose without needing to secure permission.

This is not a new edition – it is the text of the 2012 edition, largely unchanged. Inevitably, a number of sites – mainly the smaller ones – have disappeared, and for major sites, the detailed descriptions are now sometimes out of date.

Over a third of the links in the original 2012 edition are broken. But for this version all the links have been newly checked, and several hundred broken ones have been updated.

The book can be read on the Internet Archive or downloaded in various formats from **archive.org/details/the-genealogists-internet**

Probably the best format for reading is the ePub version, while the Microsoft Word file is intended mainly for those wanting to reuse or adapt the text. There is also a web version on my own website at **spub.co.uk/tgi/**.

I hope your readers will find it useful.
Peter Christian

Editor Replies Thank you for making this available Peter. I'm sure it will be of interest to many of our readers.

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What's On

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PICK OF THE MONTH

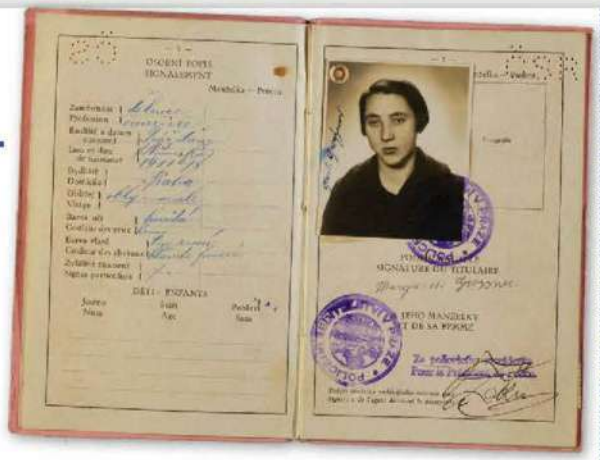
This exhibition tells the stories of Second World War POWs

Great Escapes: Remarkable Second World War Captives

Opens 2 February

a The National Archives, London

w **nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/exhibitions/great-escapes/**



Passport of British internment camp inmate Margarete Klopfleisch

This new exhibition from The National Archives (TNA) will shed light on the experiences of service personnel and civilians on both sides of the conflict who were imprisoned and interned during the Second World War. The exhibition will look at the story of imprisonment during the war, from the establishment of the 1929 Geneva Convention, to the experiences of individual prisoners in the war years, to its aftermath and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, using records from TNA and items on loan from other organisations. If you have a relative who was imprisoned during the Second World War, Great Escapes is the perfect chance to gain new insight into their experiences. Free.

IN PERSON

British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich

3 February

a Dartford Science and Technology College

t 01322 527604

w **tinyurl.com/hospitalformothersandbabies**

Sue Sauter, Governor of the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, will trace the history of the pre-NHS maternity home and midwifery school. Free to North West Kent Family History members, small donation requested otherwise.

Life as a Genealogist

14 February

a Ventnor Hall, Central United Reform Church, Hove

w **https://sfhg.uk/events/group-diary/brighton-hove/life-as-a-genealogist**

Matthew Homewood reveals the stories he's uncovered in his 20 years as a genealogist. Free.

Introduction to Family History Workshop

22 February

a Treetops Family History Research Centre, Poole

t 01202 785623

w **dorsetfhs.org.uk/event/introduction-to-family-history-2/**

Aimed at those who are starting or have recently started their family history research, this introductory workshop will cover topics such as census returns and civil registration. £7, advanced booking required.

Working the Land Seminar

24 February

a Bearley Village Hall

t 0800 011 2182

w **https://one-name.org/seminar-events/**

'Ag lab', or agricultural labourer, ancestors are extremely common and notoriously hard to trace. This seminar from the Guild of One-Name Studies has a day of expert talks to help you find out more about your ag lab ancestors' lives. £25 with lunch.

Britain's First Railways Murder

24 February

a Woolmer Green Village Hall

e *secretary@hertsfhs.org.uk*

w **hertsfhs.org.uk/hfphs43.html**

Paul Stickler will talk about the 1864 murder of Thomas Briggs and how a shocking crime led to a chase across the Atlantic. Free.

ONLINE

Society of Genealogists Talks

Various dates

w **members.sog.org.uk/events**

Upcoming talks include 'Using County Archives: New Poor Law Records (1834 Onwards)' (7 February), 'Instantly Buckled for Life: Scottish Marriage Records' (8 February) and 'Doxies, Dolly-mops and Dressmakers: The History of Prostitution 1780–1930' (10 February). Various prices.

Researching Your Relative's Service in The Great War

6 February–5 March

w **tinyurl.com/relativesserviceGreatWar**

In this six-week course, Ken Nisbet discusses all aspects of researching First World War military personnel and civilians. £50, concessions £40. All places must be booked by 2 February.

Sources and Citations with Ann Ballard

7 February

w **tinyurl.com/tutorialsourcesandcitations**

This tutorial will discuss how to correctly reference original records and secondary sources, as well as online sources, in family history research. £10, advance booking required.

The Family History Show Online

10 February

w **thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/**

The online version of The Family History Show features all the popular elements of the in-person event, including expert talks, one-to-one advice sessions and a virtual exhibition hall. £7 in advance, £10 on the day.

Berkshire Heritage Fair

24 February

w **berksfhs.org/berkshire-heritage-online-fair-2024/**

If you have an interest in historic Berkshire, this online fair is a great chance to talk to family and local history organisations, make connections and break down your brick walls. Free.

BOOK AHEAD

The Family History Show comes to the Midlands

The Family History Show, Midlands

16 March

a Three Counties Showground, Malvern

w **thefamilyhistoryshow.com/midlands/**

The Family History Show's latest in-person event is taking place in the Midlands. As usual, there will be a day of expert talks, free one-to-one expert consultations, an exhibition hall and more. £8 in advance, £12 on the day.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

News

Rosemary Collins reports on data releases and genealogy news

Ministry of Justice proposes to digitise wills and destroy originals

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has opened a consultation on proposals to digitise all post-1858 wills in England and Wales, then destroy the originals.

Civil registration of probate in England and Wales was introduced in 1858. Digital copies of wills from 1858 and after can be purchased from the Government's Find a Will website (**https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/**) for £1.50. For many family historians, ordering their ancestors' wills is an important part of their research.

The MoJ says the proposals are necessary due to the increasing cost of storing the 110 million documents, currently about £4.5 million per year. It proposes keeping the physical copies for 25 years and then destroying them, while preserving the wills of some famous historical figures.

Justice Minister Mike Freer said: "Historic wills can provide us with a unique window into the past and we want to make it as easy for amateur and professional historians alike to access these documents. Digitalisation allows us to move with the times and save the taxpayer valuable money, while preserving paper copies of noteworthy wills which hold historical importance."

The Society of Genealogists responded: "Digitisation may provide more convenient access to documents and prevent further damage by overhandling etc, but digitisation is not preservation. The documents themselves are of legal and historic interest and should be preserved as such."

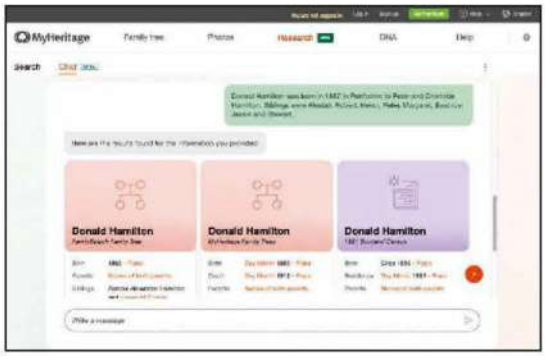
The consultation will be open until 23 February 2024. Visit **tinyurl.com/GovWillConsultation** to find out more. If you want to sign the petition to #SaveOurWills, go to **tinyurl.com/SaveOurWillsPetition**.

I SIR ALEC GUINNESS of Kentlebrook Meadows Steep Marsh Petersfield GU32 2BD hereby REVOKE all former testamentary dispositions made by me and DECLARE this to be my last Will

I I APPOINT my wife MERULA SYLVIA GUINNESS (hereinafter called 'my wife') my son MATTHEW GUINNESS of Dunlin Eel Pie Boatyard Eel Pie Island Twickenham Middlesex TW1 3DY (hereinafter called 'my son') RICHARD LEEPER McCLELLAND (also known as Richard Leech) actor of 27 Clayland Road London SW8 1NX and MARK KINGSTON of 27 Sydney Road Richmond Surrey TW9 1VB (hereinafter together called 'my Trustees') which expression shall where the context so admits include the Trustees for the time being hereof whether they are original additional or substituted to be the Executors and Trustees

The will of actor Alec Guinness could be one of the wills preserved

MyHeritage announces new AI tools



MyHeritage's AI Record Finder™ invites you to type in an ancestor's details, and it will find records it holds on them

Family history website MyHeritage (myheritage.com) has announced that it is launching two new AI tools for its users.

The first tool, AI Record Finder™, is an AI chat-based search engine that allows a website user to 'chat' with an AI assistant. If they supply details about a person they are searching for, such as their name and place of birth, AI Record Finder™ will show them the MyHeritage records where the person can be found.

You can try out the tool at **myheritage.com/research/ai-record-finder/**.

The second tool is AI Biographer™, which generates a Wikipedia-style biography article about a person's life. It can be used on profiles on MyHeritage family trees, and from results on AI Record Finder™.

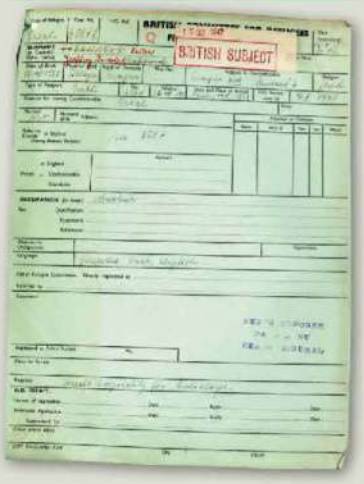
Both tools are currently available in beta on the MyHeritage website on desktop and via mobile web browser, and will be added to the MyHeritage mobile app in the near future.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stockport's archives are being relocated

Stockport archives close ahead of Stockroom move

The Stockport Heritage and Archives library at the town's Central Library has temporarily closed while its collections are relocated to a new home, Stockroom. This new "interactive learning and discovery centre" is due to open in Stockport's Merseyway shopping centre. Stockport Borough Council said researchers will still be able to access "key services", although the Heritage and Archives library is no longer accepting face-to-face visits.



A Czechoslovak Refugee Trust record

Czechoslovakian refugee records indexed

The National Archives (TNA) has indexed records of over 250 refugee families who came to the UK following the German annexation of parts of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and the invasion of the country in 1939.

They are taken from the records of the Czechoslovak Refugee Trust. The names in the records have now been added to TNA's online catalogue Discovery (**discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk**), where researchers can search for them.

CHESHIRE ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES/SOG

The Research Hub is a place where eureka moments can be celebrated

New family history Research Hub opens

A new venue that will help visitors explore their family history has opened its doors in Wharf Road, London.

The Research Hub, run by the Society of Genealogists (SoG), opened to its members on 13 December 2023 and to members of the general public on 3 January 2024.

The new space replaces the Society's previous home in Clerkenwell and has been fitted out with accessibility and archive preservation in mind, making SoG's extensive archive and resources available to more researchers and family historians.

Talking at a press event, SoG's outgoing CEO Patrick Barker welcomed visitors to the new home of the Society, saying that it would be "a home that can be used by all of the genealogical community".

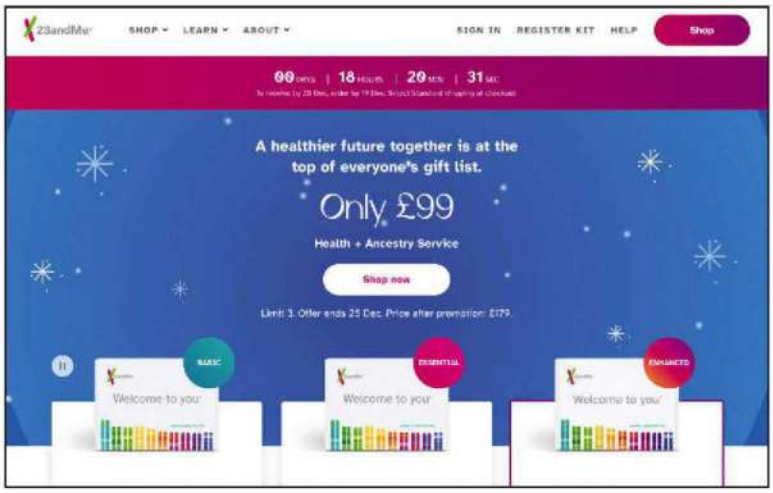
Natalie Pithers, the joint interim CEO, said: "This is a place to come not just for peace and quiet and individual study, but for sharing your findings and sharing your genealogical journey. This is a place where eureka moments can be celebrated among people who understand and share your passion."

The Research Hub is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10.30am–4pm. Visits for non-members cost £20 a day. To book them, go to **sog.org.uk/research-hub/visit-us.**

CAN YOU HELP?

Gems is a new digital experience comprising items that tell vivid and memorable stories of Cheshire

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies has announced Gems, described as "a new digital experience", due to launch in spring 2025. The Cheshire Archives website says: "Visitors will be able to make an online search with a Cheshire postcode to find the closest items from our archive that tell a vivid and memorable story of that exact area – the local Gems." Volunteers are sought to take part in the Gems project in four areas – initial curation (requiring knowledge of local histories and archival materials), geolocation (requiring knowledge of maps), research and description (requiring research and writing skills) and audio/visual research. Many jobs can be done remotely. For more information about the volunteer roles, go to **cheshirestoryshared.org/home/register-your-interest**, and to sign up, fill in the form on **tinyurl.com/GemsSignUpForm**.



A "threat actor" accessed 14,000 accounts on 23andMe using "credential stuffing"

Details of 6.9 million people breached on 23andMe

DNA testing company 23andMe has confirmed that details of 6.9 million people were accessed on its website in a data breach incident.

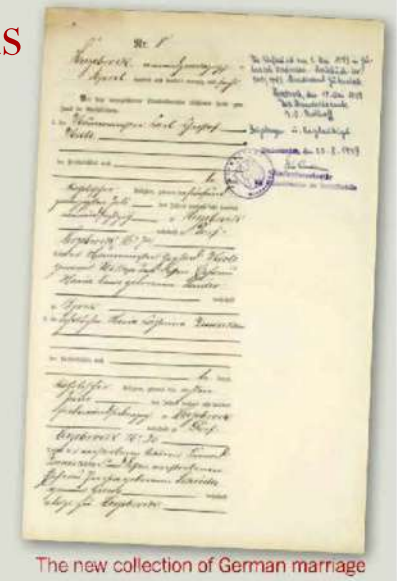
On its website, 23andMe said that in October 2023 "a threat actor" accessed 14,000 23andMe accounts through a process called "credential stuffing". This means using usernames and passwords on 23andMe accounts that were the same as those used on other sites subjected to a security breach. The threat actor then accessed the details in 5.5 million 23andMe DNA Relatives profiles and 1.4 million Family Tree feature profiles linked to the compromised accounts.

23andMe said: "Since detecting the incident, we emailed all customers to notify them of the investigation and are continuing to notify impacted customers, based on applicable laws. We also required every 23andMe customer to reset their password. In addition, 23andMe now requires all new and existing customers to login using two-step verification."

MyHeritage adds German marriage records

MyHeritage (**myheritage.com**) has added a new collection of marriage certificates from the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, dating from 1874 to 1899. It includes scans of the original records, a searchable index, and records of nearly four million people.

Among the marriage certificates is that of Carl Christof Miele and Maria Catharina Zuwickern on 21 April 1896 in Herzebrock-Clarholz. In 1899, Carl Miele co-founded Miele & Cie, a household appliances company. Among other things, he is famous for developing the first electric domestic dishwasher in Europe in 1929.



The new collection of German marriage records includes four million names

8,000
Kent baptism records have been added to Findmypast

Sarah Biffin
A self-portrait by the 19th-century disabled artist has been acquired by the South West Heritage Trust

UC-71
A new 3D map suggests the First World War German U-boat was sunk deliberately (**tinyurl.com/WW1-submarine-scuttled**)

Russell Crowe
The actor says he's descended from the last person beheaded in England (**tinyurl.com/Guardian-Russell-Crowe-story**)

John Keats
New research shows the poet was investigated by Italian police shortly before his death (**tinyurl.com/Guardian-Yeats-Discovery**)

170,000
Records from Lloyd George's 1910 Domesday Survey for Northants have been added to TheGenealogist

Rachel Wingert receives her ancestor's pen, thanks to the Arolsen Archives

Pen returned to Holocaust victim's family

A pen owned by a man killed in the Holocaust has been returned to his family in London.

The pen belonged to Hans-Joachim Bünger, a chemist from Dresden who was born in 1920. In 1943 he was deported to Buchenwald concentration camp and subsequently moved to Neuengamme concentration camp, where he died.

All his personal belongings were taken from him, including the pen, which ended up in a collection of around 2,500 personal items taken from concentration camp victims now held by the Arolsen Archives in Germany, the world's most comprehensive archive on victims of Nazi persecution.

As part of #StolenMemory, a project to give back stolen property to owners' families, the Arolsen Archives returned it to Rachel Wingert, Hans-Joachim's relative, in a ceremony at Wiener Holocaust Library in London.

Rachel said: "I'm very very happy to have this, and although Germans kept it for a while under bad circumstances, the Arolsen Archives has kept it since 1964. I'm so grateful they took such care of it."

AROLSEN ARCHIVES

Britain's Finest Hour

Alan Crosby recalls how his grandparents did their bit during the Second World War

Among the family documents I inherited when my grandfather died in 1988 was a brown envelope on which my grandmother (who had died 15 years earlier) had written 'Grave Papers'. It contained a miscellany of items, including a certificate issued by the City of Manchester on 26 April 1941, confirming that Grandad was appointed as an air raid warden; a letter from the chief constable of Manchester in August 1942, by which he was elevated to the rank of deputy head warden; and a bright-red card (about twice the size of a credit card) signed by Robert Henry Adcock, the town clerk of Manchester that states that my grandmother was "Voluntary Superintendent at the Crossley Lads' Club Rest Centre". It's dated 2 April 1943.

In 1941 my grandfather was 44 years old, too old to be conscripted for active military service, but expected to play his full part in the war effort. He was a driver for the Beswick Co-operative Society, which served his area on the east side of Manchester city centre. The Society was founded in 1892 and by 1939 had 35,000 members and a dozen branches. Its central depot was in Grey Mare Lane, about half a mile from where my grandparents lived (and just along the street from the Wesleyan Methodist church where I was baptised some years later). The depot had its own bakery, and Grandad had a bread round, driving his little van round a tightly packed working-class district, which he knew like the back of his hand.

A bomb had exploded ahead and brought down the overhead lines

When he became an air raid and fire warden, in the spring of 1941, the threat of enemy attack was all too real. Only four months earlier, parts of Manchester had been devastated in the Christmas Blitz of 1940. My mother was 14 at the time, and vividly remembered seeing the city centre in flames. Her older brother, my uncle, recalled being on a trolleybus heading 'into town' when it suddenly stopped. A bomb had exploded some distance ahead, and brought down the overhead lines that supplied electricity to the system. So the danger was immediate – especially as they lived in an area of heavy industry, surrounded by large engineering works and close to major railway junctions.

Grandad's certificate of appointment states that he undertook to perform civil defence duties for a minimum of 48 hours in each month, but he did far more than that. Many nights of tension and boredom were spent, waiting for the sirens, watching for fires and incendiaries, and checking that everybody was observing the blackout. Fortunately, by the time Grandad became a warden, the worst of the raids was over, but of course nobody knew that at the time, and he remained in post until the end of the war.

And what of Grandma? She was in her early 40s, a bundle of nervous energy combined with down-to-earth, practical, Lancashire common sense. She was brilliant at running the rest centre, discovering a talent for organisation and what might these days be called 'people skills'. The weary and worn-out wardens and civil-defence workers, the factory fire-watchers and the constables of the city police force, came to the rest centre as it served them innumerable cups of sweet tea, buns and sandwiches, and bowls of potato hash. There they could recover and have a restorative break from their duties. At the end of the war, Grandma was given a special commendation from the Lord Mayor of Manchester for her wartime voluntary work.

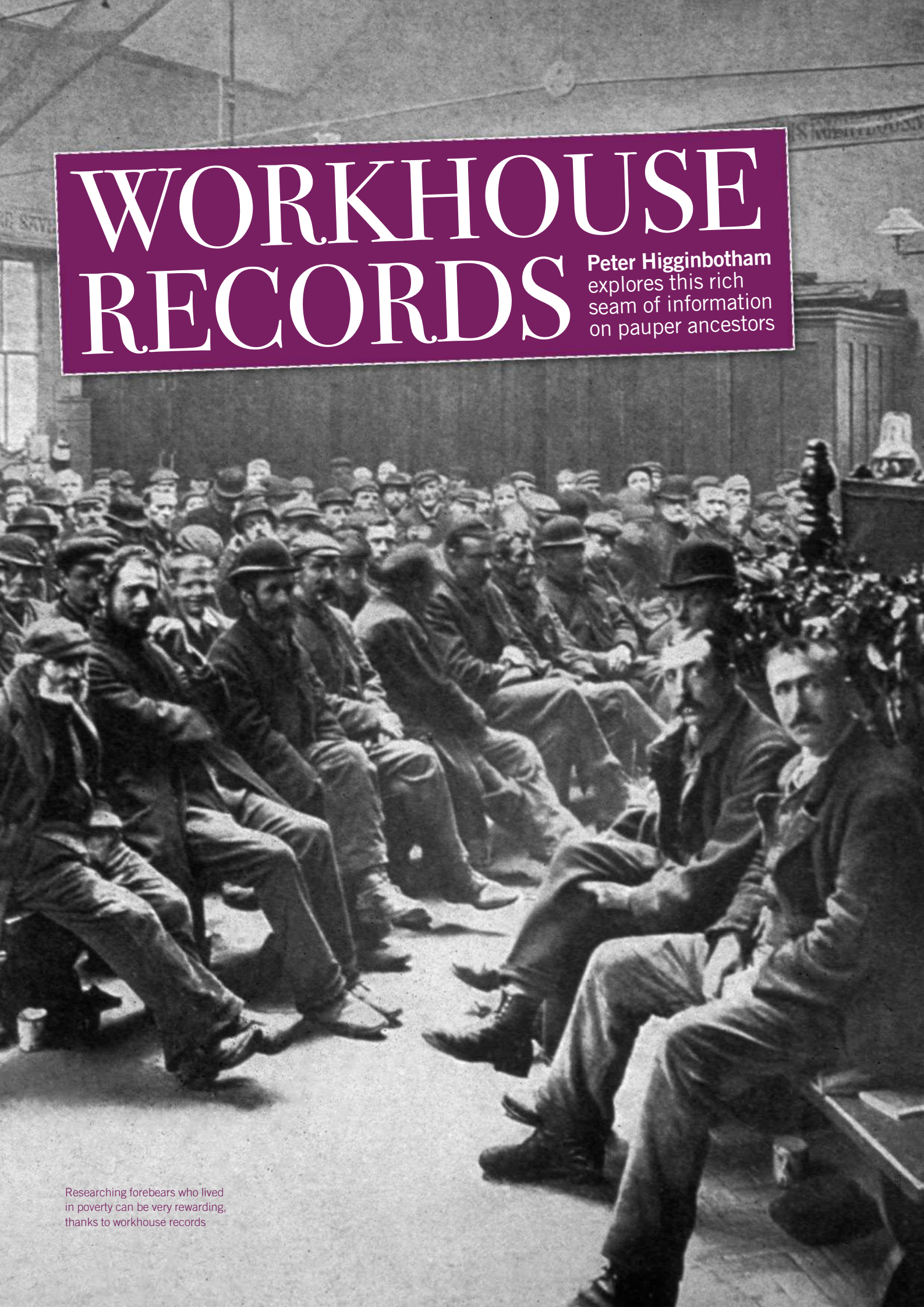
All this is ancient history. The Second World War is slowly passing from living memory and nobody in my family remembers it. My duty is to write down their experiences for my own descendants to treasure – these are the stories of their forebears, of whom they can be really proud.

ALAN CROSBY lives in Lancashire and is the editor of *The Local Historian*

ILLUSTRATION **WWW.SUEGENT.COM**

WORKHOUSE RECORDS

Peter Higginbotham explores this rich seam of information on pauper ancestors



Researching forebears who lived in poverty can be very rewarding, thanks to workhouse records

For many of our ancestors, the workhouse – and the poor relief system of which it formed a major part – loomed large in their lives. For those in need, it was the welfare system of its day, providing help for the homeless, the unemployed, the sick, the physically and mentally incapacitated, parentless children and single mothers.

Originally based around individual parishes, an overhaul of poor relief in 1834 created new administrative areas – groupings of parishes known as Poor Law Unions – each with its own workhouse and run by a locally elected Board of Guardians. A central body, the Poor Law Commissioners (PLC), oversaw the operation of the new system.

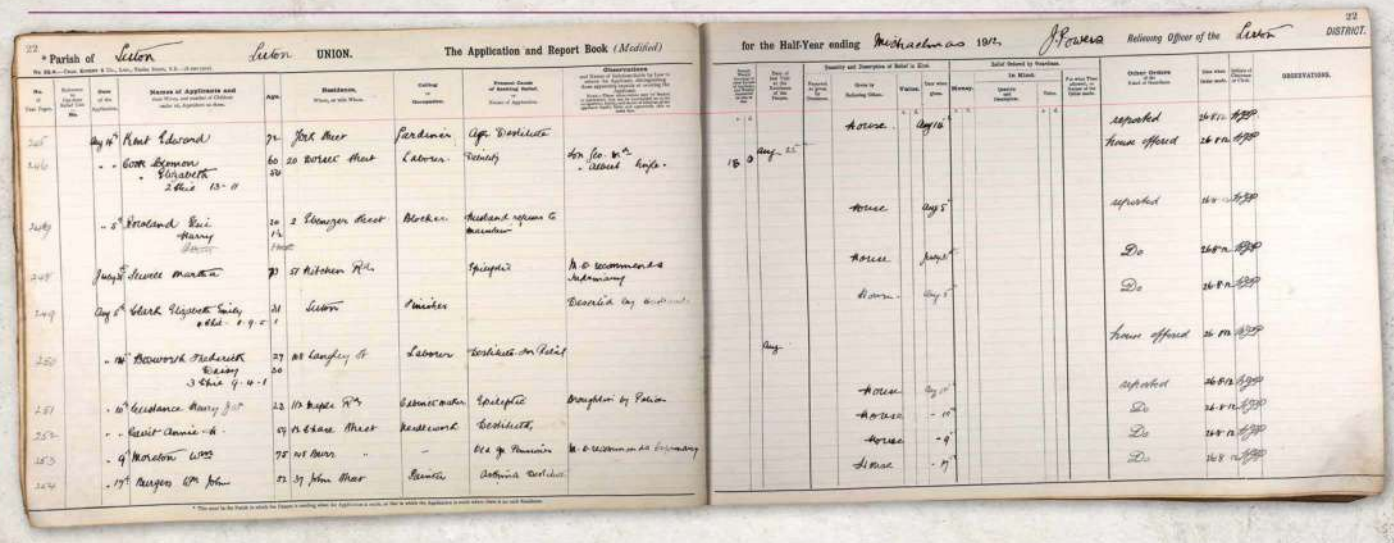
Keeping costs down was a constant concern for the administrators of the relief system and for the local ratepayers who funded it. That meant minimising expenditure and keeping a tight rein on those to whom assistance was granted, especially by a clamp-down on providing out-relief – handouts in the form of cash or kind, such as bread. From 1834, it was intended that able-bodied men and their families were to be deterred from seeking help by making the workhouse the only form of relief on offer.

Female inmates often worked in the workhouse laundry

The PLC introduced an extraordinary level of bureaucracy, with a vast array of record books and forms that unions would require in order to carry out their responsibilities. Fortunately for family historians, those that survive can provide a wealth of information and it definitely pays to explore beyond the most obvious records such as admission and discharge registers.

For someone unable to put

Relieving Officer's Application and Report Book



The Application and Report Book is a parish-by-parish record of each relief applicant's details – this includes their name, age, address, occupation, marital status, disabilities and dependents – and what the relief was that the parish had offered to them. That might be a handout in cash or in kind, or both, such as 3/- and two loaves of bread a week for six weeks. It could also be an order for medical treatment, which might be in the workhouse infirmary; or for entry to the workhouse, as happened to all the applicants in this 1912 example from the Bedfordshire Workhouse and Poor Law Records collection on Ancestry (**ancestry.co.uk**) **tinyurl.com/BedfordRelievingOfficer**

food on the table, or to pay their rent, seeking help from the union might be their only practical option. The usual first point of contact with the relief system was not to knock on the door of a workhouse, but to contact one of the union's front-line officials, the Relieving Officers, who regularly visited each parish in the union and assessed each applicant's individual situation.

A claimant might well be hoping for out-relief which, despite the PLC's aims, continued to be the overall most frequent form of assistance. Those receiving and accepting the offer of the workhouse were given an admission ticket and made their own way there, potentially a walk of up to ten miles, accompanied by their family, if any.

In some cases, there might be doubt over an applicant's eligibility for relief. This was particularly the case in urban unions, where claimants were more likely to be unknown to a Relieving Officer. The law of settlement still applied after 1834, meaning a union was only obliged to assist those who had legal residence status in one of its member parishes. Alternatively, a claimant might have relatives who, as the law required, should be supporting them. In such cases, an investigation could be undertaken to gather the relevant details.

Separation of families was the feature many inmates found most difficult

New arrivals at a workhouse were initially placed in a receiving ward, bathed, and given workhouse clothing – possibly a step up from the rags they might have arrived in. After an examination by the Workhouse Medical Officer (WMO), the newcomers would be moved to their assigned area of the main workhouse.

Males and females were housed in different areas, with each further divided into elderly and infirm, able-bodied adults, and boys and girls. This separation of families was the feature of the workhouse that many inmates found the most difficult. In theory, a parent could request a daily 'interview' with their children. In practice, however, meetings between children and one or other parent typically took place on a Sunday afternoon in the workhouse dining hall.

Pauper Examination Books

5

22 Sept 99.

6

22 Sept 99.

Pauper Examination Books, though not frequent survivors, record details of the background and circumstances of a relief applicant where an investigation into their entitlement was deemed necessary. If settlement was an issue, entries could include extensive details of the person's family and marital history, and a list of previous places where they had lived and worked, and for what periods of time. This example, from Ancestry (unidentified but apparently from Wandsworth Union) includes the interesting case of a William Bedford, a 'negro boy' abandoned by his mother. Some entries in the volume include documents such as rent demands, addressed envelopes and so on. **tinyurl.com/WandsworthUnion**

Entering A Workhouse

Workhouses varied widely in size from the 50 places at Belford in Northumberland to the massive 3,500 at England's largest workhouse, on Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, which must have been quite an intimidating place to enter.

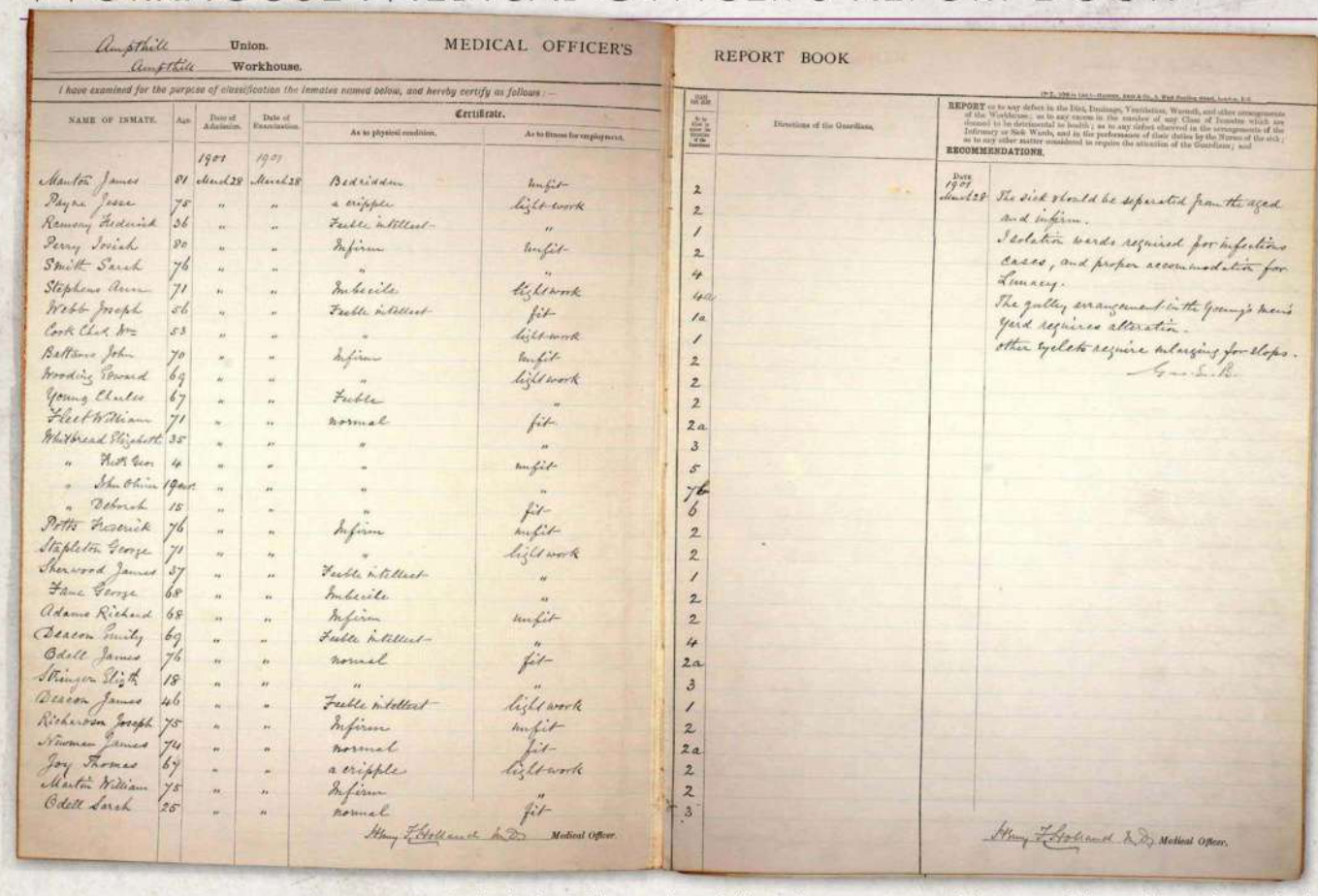
The details of each new inmate's name, age, occupation and religion were recorded in the workhouse Admission and Discharge register. The subsequent discharge information for a particular person isn't usually linked to their admission entry so involves trawling forwards through the book. Admission and discharge information is also found in other records, notably in the Religious Creed Register introduced in 1869, and which often survives.

The Daily Routine

Daily life in a workhouse followed a rigid routine. For the able-bodied, it typically began at 6am with washing, dressing and roll-call. Breakfast was at 6.30am and would be followed by work from 7am till 12 noon. After an hour's break for dinner came five more hours work, with supper at 6pm then bedtime at 8pm. Work for women revolved around cleaning, sewing, cooking and laundry work, while for men it could include stone breaking, oakum picking, water pumping and corn grinding. The time from 7 to 8pm provided an opportunity for recreation. From the 1860s, most workhouses received donations of books or magazines, and might ▶

The staff of a British workhouse in around 1880. These individuals will appear in the 1881 census

Workhouse Medical Officer's Report Book



Ampthill Union.
Ampthill Workhouse.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT BOOK

I have examined for the purpose of classification the Inmates named below, and hereby certify as follows:—

NAME OF INMATE.	Age.	Date of Admission.	Date of Examination.	Certificate. As to physical condition.	Certificate. As to fitness for employment.
		1901	1901		
Manton James	81	March 28	March 28	Bedridden	unfit
Payne Jesse	75	"	"	a cripple	light work
Ramsey Frederick	36	"	"	Feeble intellect	"
Perry Josiah	80	"	"	Infirm	unfit
Smith Sarah	76	"	"	"	"
Stephens Ann	71	"	"	Imbecile	light work
Webb Joseph	86	"	"	Feeble intellect	fit
Cook Chd. Wm	53	"	"	"	light work
Battams John	70	"	"	Infirm	unfit
Wooding Edward	69	"	"	"	light work
Young Charles	67	"	"	Feeble	"
Fleet William	71	"	"	normal	fit
Whitbread Elizabeth	35	"	"	"	"
" Ruth Ann	4	"	"	"	unfit
" John Chas	1 year	"	"	"	"
" Deborah	15	"	"	"	fit
Potts Frederick	76	"	"	Infirm	unfit
Stapleton George	71	"	"	"	light work
Sherwood James	57	"	"	Feeble intellect	"
Lane George	68	"	"	Imbecile	"
Adams Richard	68	"	"	Infirm	unfit
Beacon Emily	69	"	"	Feeble intellect	"
Odell James	76	"	"	normal	fit
Stringer Elizh	18	"	"	"	"
Beacon James	46	"	"	Feeble intellect	light work
Richardson Joseph	75	"	"	Infirm	unfit
Newman James	74	"	"	normal	fit
Joy Thomas	67	"	"	a cripple	light work
Martin William	75	"	"	Infirm	"
Odell Sarah	25	"	"	normal	fit

Henry F. Holland M.D. Medical Officer.

Date	No. in Class	Directions of the Guardians.	REPORT as to any defect in the Diet, Drainage, Ventilation, Warmth, and other arrangements of the Workhouse; as to any excess in the number of any Class of Inmates which are deemed to be detrimental to health; as to any defect observed in the arrangements of the Infirmary or Sick Wards, and in the performance of their duties by the Nurses of the sick; as to any other matter considered to require the attention of the Guardians; and RECOMMENDATIONS.
	2		
	2		
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	4a		
	1a		
	1		
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	2		
	2a		
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	7b		
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	2		
	2		
	4		
	2a		
	3		
	1		
	2		
	2a		
	2		
	2		
	3		

Date 1901 March 28

The sick should be separated from the aged and infirm.
Isolation wards required for infectious cases, and proper accommodation for Lunacy.
The gully arrangement in the Young's men's yard requires alteration.
Other toilets require enlarging for slops.

Henry F. Holland M.D. Medical Officer.

To prevent infectious diseases `being introduced into the workhouse, new inmates were examined by the Workhouse Medical Officer. The WMO's Report Book records each person's name, age, date of admission, physical condition and capability to do work. The report would determine where they would be placed in the workhouse and the class of diet they received. The same register was also used to periodically record the state of the workhouse's medical facilities. This 1901 example, for Ampthill workhouse, is from Ancestry's Bedfordshire collection, though mislabeled as the WMO's Relief Book. **tinyurl.com/AmpthillWorkhouse**

also host occasional talks or entertainment.

Workhouse food was plain and repetitive, typically bread and gruel for breakfast, bread and cheese or broth for dinner and supper, with meat and vegetables two or three times a week. A major overhaul of inmates' diets in 1900 introduced a much wider range of fare such as Irish stew, fish pie and roly-poly pudding.

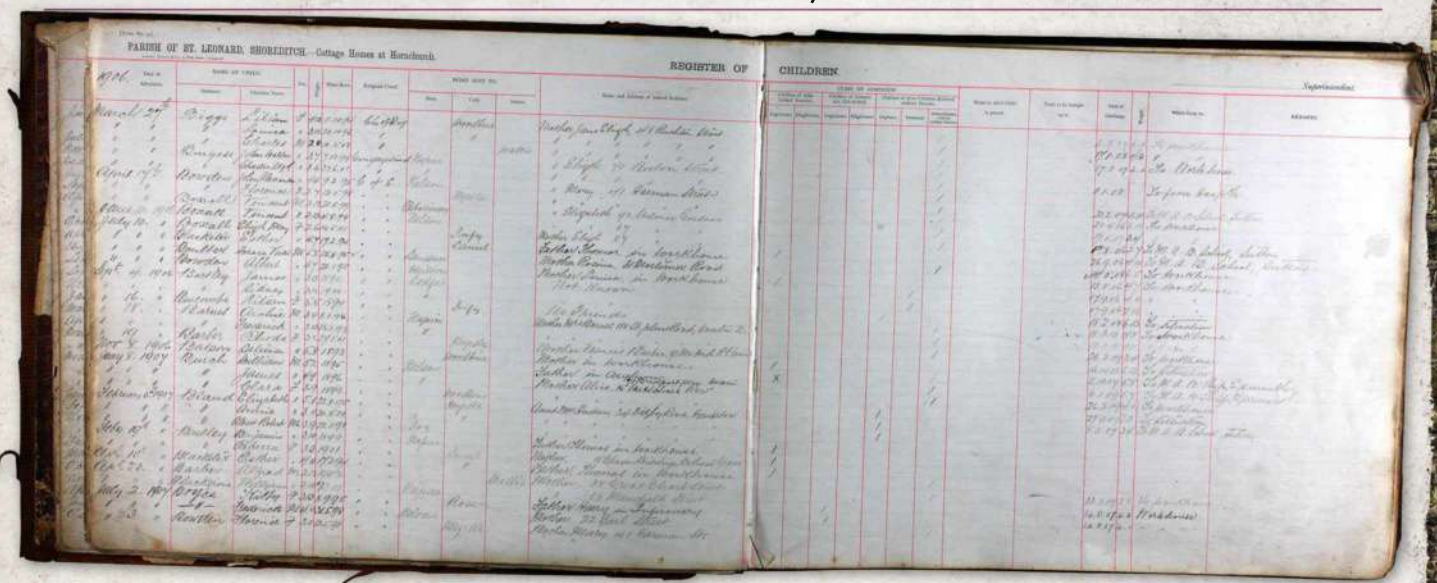
Medical Care

Every workhouse had a sick ward or infirmary building. Inmates' treatment was supervised by the WMO whose Medical Relief List was a daily register of those being treated. Up until the 1880s, most workhouse nursing was carried out by elderly female inmates who were usually illiterate and – given a ration of beer for their work – often drunk. Paid, trained nurses gradually became the norm, with the use of pauper nurses being abolished in 1897.

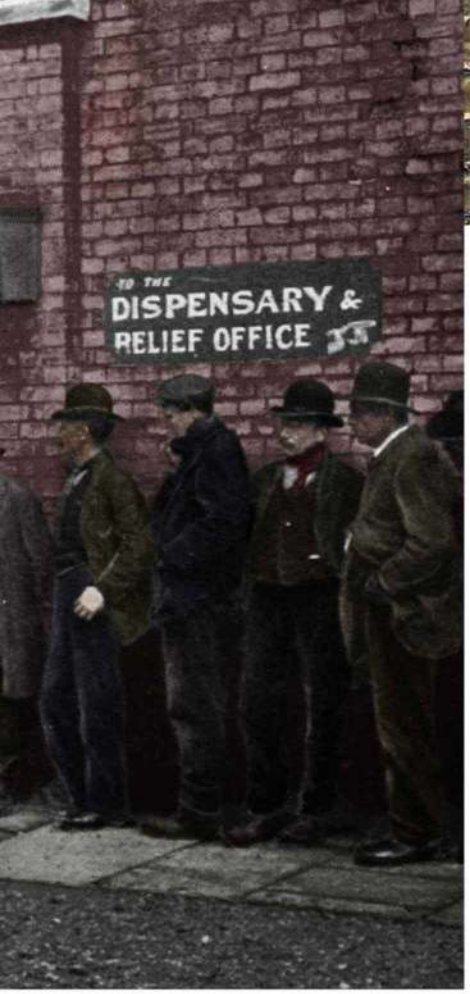
As well as the WMO, each union employed several District Medical Officers (DMOs) who each covered a section of the union area and visited the sick – either in their homes or at his own house. A Medical Relief List was also kept by DMOs detailing the progress of each patient's condition. From the 1870s onwards, there was an expansion in workhouse medical facilities, with their management placed under a medical professional rather than the workhouse master. New infirmary buildings were

Waiting for admission to St Marylebone Workhouse, Luxborough Street, London, 1903

Cottage Homes Admissions/Discharge Register



This Cottage Homes Admissions/Discharge Register, part of Ancestry's 'London Poor Law and Board of Guardian Records' collection (1738–1926), is for the cottage homes at Hornchurch, run by the Shoreditch Board of Guardians. It records not only each child's name and date of birth, but also the name and address of their nearest relative – usually a parent. Instead of a street address, this could be noted as 'Mother Louisa in workhouse' or 'Father Harry in infirmary'. It also gives the date of discharge and 'Where Gone to', for example entries include 'To Workhouse', 'To Fever Hospital', 'To M.A.B. [Metropolitan Asylums Board] Training Ship Exmouth' and 'To Situation'. For more, visit: **tinyurl.com/Hornchurchcottagehomes**.



erected, sometimes on a separate site from the workhouses. Part of this expansion was driven by the union's sick poor increasingly being referred for treatment in the infirmary, without their having to become workhouse inmates.

Children in the Workhouse

Children always formed a large part of the workhouse population. From the 1840s onwards, there were increasing efforts to house them in their own separate accommodation. Apart from providing a more healthy environment, they would not be 'tainted' by contact with adult inmates. The first efforts in this direction were the district schools set up by unions in Leeds, London, Liverpool and Manchester. These took the form of large buildings housing hundreds of children, leading them to be sometimes referred to as 'barrack' schools.

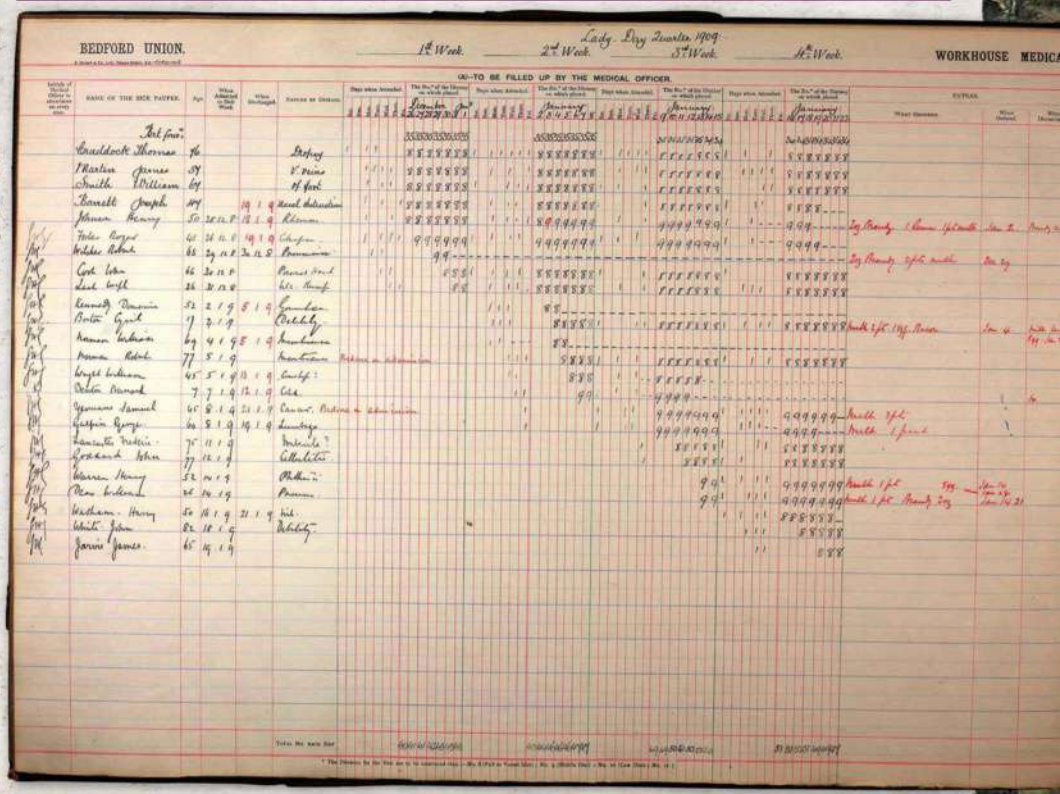
As a reaction against these monolithic and impersonal establishments, the 1870s saw the introduction of 'cottage homes' where groups of 15 to 30 children lived in family-style groups in domestic-scale houses, usually in a rural village-style setting, complete with a school, chapel, hospital and so on. Twenty years later, the family-group idea was translated into 'scattered homes' – ordinary houses in city suburbs, where the children attended neighbourhood schools. Children coming into the care of the guardians typically spent a short initial period at the workhouse and appear in its Admission and Discharge Register. On transfer to a separate children's establishment, they would then also appear in its Admission Register.

Leaving a Workhouse

Workhouses were not prisons and inmates could discharge themselves at any time. However, leaving the workhouse without permission while wearing workhouse clothing constituted theft of union property, possibly leading to 30 days in prison with hard labour. A few hours' absence would be allowed, though, for example to search for work. Inmates wishing to leave permanently had to give a few hours' notice and have their own clothing restored to them.

The duration of inmates' stays in a workhouse varied widely. A category known as the 'ins and outs' would enter and leave frequently, possibly dozens of times a year, almost treating the workhouse as free lodgings. For others, particularly the elderly, it became a place they ended up staying the rest of their lives. When an inmate died in ▶

Medical Officer's Relief List



For each patient, this register recorded their name, age, dates of admission to and discharge from the sick ward, the nature of their medical condition and its outcome, which might be death or transfer to the main workhouse or separate children's accommodation. Also listed were any dietary 'extras' they were receiving, such as eggs, bacon, milk, beer, wine, gin, brandy or whisky! Originally, workhouse infirmaries were set up to treat workhouse inmates only. From the 1870s onwards, however, they increasingly dealt with the outside sick poor, who could be treated without their needing to become workhouse inmates. This example is from Ancestry's Bedfordshire collection. See **tinyurl.com/MedicalOfficersReliefList** for more

Inmates enjoy some fresh air in the airing yard at St Marylebone Workhouse, London

the workhouse, any known relatives would be informed in case they wished to arrange a funeral. Otherwise, the union would provide what is often referred to as a 'pauper funeral' – burial, perhaps alongside several others, in an unmarked grave in a section of the parish graveyard or, from the later Victorian period, a municipal cemetery. Identifying the cemetery used by a workhouse at a particular date can be surprisingly difficult, although it is sometimes recorded in the institution's` death registers.

Accessing Records

Local workhouse records are generally held by the county or metropolitan archive for where an institution was located. To learn what records still survive, good starting points are the archive's own online catalogue or the National Archives' Discovery database (**discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk**). Surviving inmate-related records for each establishment are also summarised on **workhouses.org.uk**. New records surface from time to time, so it's always worth rechecking once in a while. And look through all that are available – some less-obvious-sounding records may give information about your ancestor.

A growing number of workhouse records are now available online, the dominant providers being Ancestry (**ancestry.co.uk**) and Findmypast (**findmypast.co.uk**). Ancestry's offering includes unions in Cornwall, the Medway area in Kent, Glamorgan, Norfolk and, London – from the 1730s to the 1920s. The London workhouse admissions and discharge records alone number over 10 million entries. London Poor Law school and hospital admissions are also covered in the collection.

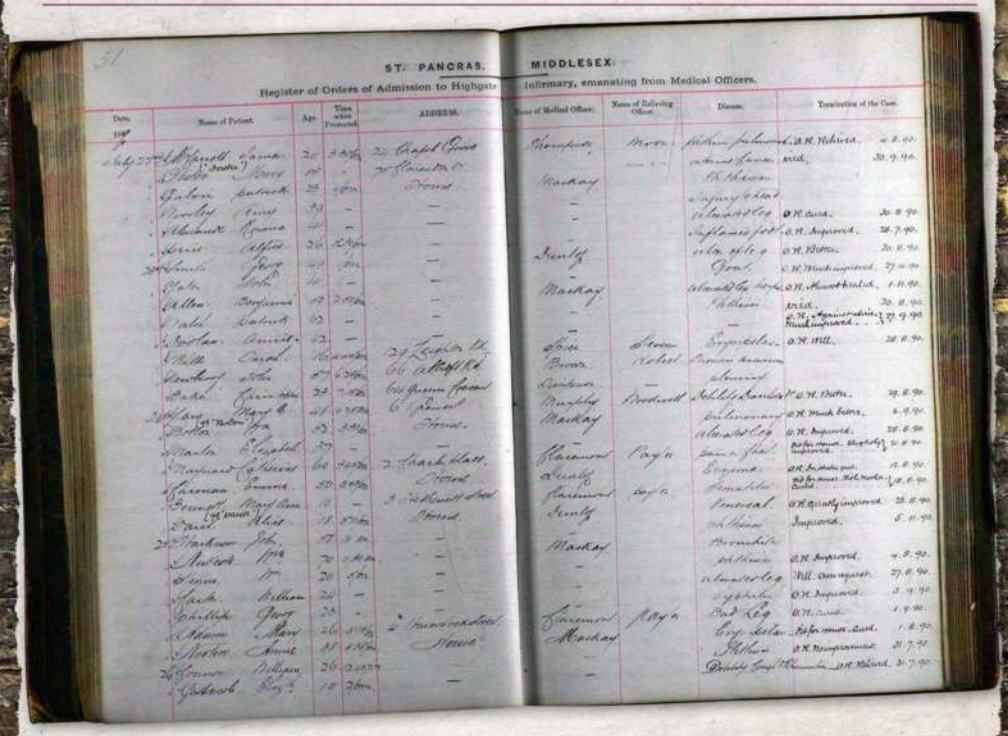
Searching for Gems

There are a couple of issues with Ancestry's 'London Poor Law Boards of Guardians' collection, which includes Creed Registers. It appears not to be fully name indexed, despite the impression given by the search interface, so relevant records may be missed.

Individual volumes can be manually browsed via drop-down menus – but watch out for records that are unhelpfully categorised or wrongly labelled, such as the Greenwich Superintendent Registrar's 'Notices of Marriages' book, which is identified as 'Plumstead Workhouse'.

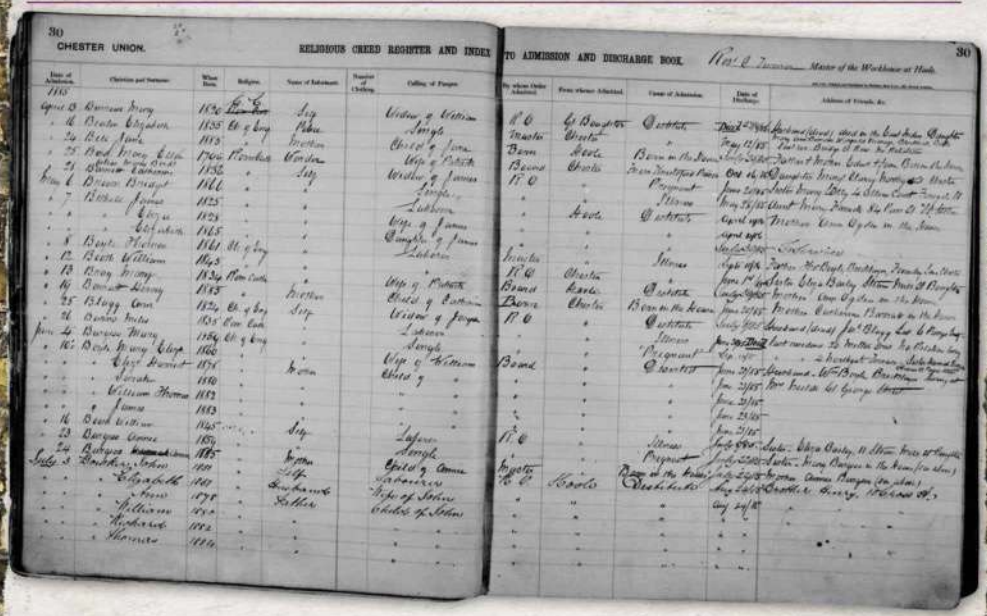
Those problems aside, some gems can be unearthed, often in the 'Miscellaneous' category,

Infirmary Admission Register



Separate workhouse infirmaries kept their own admission/discharge and other registers. The format of Admission Registers varies but typically includes each patient's name, age, dates of admission and discharge and medical condition. They also sometimes indicate where the person had been admitted from. That could be from the main workhouse or their own home. Whichever it was, the address would be recorded. Either of these could provide a lead to locating further records, such as the corresponding workhouse admission details or a census entry. Ancestry has a collection called London Poor Law Hospital Admissions and Discharges, 1842–1918, but there are also some infirmary admission registers included in its collection London Workhouse Admission and Discharge Records, 1764–1921, where this example comes from. **tinyurl.com/InfirmaryAdmissions**

Religious Creed Register



The Religious Creed Register, usually held at the workhouse porter's lodge, was introduced in 1869 to allow local clergy to identify inmates from their particular denomination and ensure that their spiritual needs were met. As well as name, age, religious affiliation and cause of admission (eg pregnant) for an individual, it often records their previous address and next of kin and sometimes lists together all of each person's subsequent admissions and discharges. The book is easier to search than the Admission and Discharge register as entries are usually arranged semi-alphabetically by surname as in this example from the Cheshire Workhouse Records collection on Findmypast (**findmypast.co.uk**). **tinyurl.com/ReligiousCreedRegister**

such as the 1847 printed list of St Pancras inmates, which gives the name of each and the time they have spent in the workhouse – varying from one week to 'all his life' for one 50-year-old foundling. Also interesting is the record of the personal effects of inmates entering the City of London's Homerton workhouse. In most cases these comprised a pawn ticket and a shilling or two, though one woman had more than ten pounds in her pocket! Better organised is Ancestry's extensive Bedfordshire Poor Law records collection.

Findmypast's workhouse records include unions in Kent, Cheshire, Surrey, Monmouthshire, the Manchester area, and also some in Ireland. For some locations only birth, baptism, death or burial registers are available, and records are more often transcript-only than for Ancestry. The star offering is probably the Liverpool Workhouse Registers collection, which includes over two million records. The Findmypast interface is very much name-focused, and selecting and browsing individual record volumes is tricky. As with Ancestry, errors can be encountered – some pre-1869 Liverpool admission books are labelled as Religious Creed Registers, while a 1930 Creed Register is mis-dated as 1830 and the inmates' derived birth years are 100 years out!

FamilySearch (**familysearch.org**) has free-access workhouse records for Cheshire, Portsmouth, Kent, Norfolk and Monmouthshire. All these are also available on Findmypast and/or Ancestry, which may offer name searching, document images or inmate details not provided on FamilySearch.

Another source of workhouse records is the transcriptions available in print or on CD via suppliers such as Genfair (**genfair.co.uk**) and the Eureka Partnership (**eurekapartnership.com**).

PETER HIGGINBOTHAM wrote *Children's Homes: A History of Institutional Care for Britain's Young* and is the creator of the website **workhouses.org.uk**

Resources

Take your research further

ARCHIVE

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
a **Kew, Richmond, TW9 4DU**
t 020 8876 3444
w **nationalarchives.gov.uk**
TNA has workhouse staff lists, building plans and the huge 'MH12' union correspondence archive, now partly digitised, containing many handwritten letters from paupers.

BOOK

The Workhouse Encyclopedia
Peter Higginbotham
The History Press, 2014
Peter's illustrated A-to-Z guide covers every aspect of the workhouse, including the different types of record available to family historians.

MUSEUMS

THE WORKHOUSE & INFIRMARY
a **Upton Rd, Southwell NG25 0PT**
t 01636 817260
w **tinyurl.com/nt-lincs-work**
This National Trust property features a restored 1824 workhouse and recently opened infirmary block. It's closed for the winter, reopening on 14 February.

WORKHOUSE MUSEUM & GARDEN
a **Sharow View, Allhallowgate, Ripon HG4 1LE**
t 01765 690799
w **tinyurl.com/ripon-mus-wh**
Greatly expanded in recent years, the museum includes a tramps' cell block and a large workhouse garden. It's also closed, and will reopen to visitors on 10 February.

WEBSITE

THE WORKHOUSE
w **workhouses.org.uk**
Peter's immense resource covers the whole of the British Isles, and includes a summary of the surviving records for each union's workhouse, homes and so on.

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WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

'My Grandparents Loved Jungle Life'

CELEBRATING YOUR DISCOVERIES

Lucy Rushton is fascinated by the adventures of her family who worked as missionaries in East Asia. It was a Kiplingesque world of hypnotic beauty and mysticism, but danger lurked beneath the forest canopy, as **Gail Dixon** explains

A tiger pads softly through the long grass, following a bullock cart carrying children from school. The big cat coughs softly and one of the boys realises that they're being stalked, but he holds his nerve and the danger passes.

The boy on the cart that day was Lucy Rushton's father David, who was born in Burma (now Myanmar) in 1929. His recollections, and those of her grandparents, Albert Edward Rushton (known as Ted) and Elizabeth Lane, have inspired her love of family history.

Lucy lives in King's Lynn, Norfolk, and is an author. She cherishes memories of childhood holidays with her grandparents, who returned from the Far East to live in Cambridge. "We loved exploring their vicarage, a grand Edwardian house with a croquet lawn," Lucy explains.

Ted was inspired by animated preachers at mass gatherings

Ted and Elizabeth with Lucy and one of her siblings as young children

UNP/TONY BUCKINGHAM

It was a far cry from their home in Burma, where monkeys performed acrobatics in the trees above and king cobras swayed on the forest floor. Lucy has been so inspired by her grandparents' experiences that she has woven them into her debut novel *Callings* (2023).

Set in the 1920s and 1930s, the novel follows the character of Ada, a complex young woman who leaves her sheltered life in Norfolk for the Burmese jungle and a mission that she hopes is her calling. After a spell there, she starts to question her purpose. Some of the characters are entirely fictitious, others are based in part on Lucy's relations.

"My grandparents were completely different characters," says Lucy. "Ted was a cheeky Liverpudlian from a working-class background, whereas Elizabeth was from a reasonably well-to-do farming family and had an almost aristocratic air."

Ted was born in Liverpool in 1901, the son of shipwright John Rushton and his wife Elizabeth Mason. "My grandfather worked as a gofer for a cotton importer before becoming a riveter in the shipbuilding industry. He didn't enjoy the job, however, or the manual labour."

As a young man, Ted joined a street mission in Liverpool and was inspired by animated preachers at mass gatherings. He joined the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society (BCMS), which is now known as Crosslinks (**crosslinks.org**). He spent two years studying in London and Bristol before qualifying as a deacon.

Quite a Character

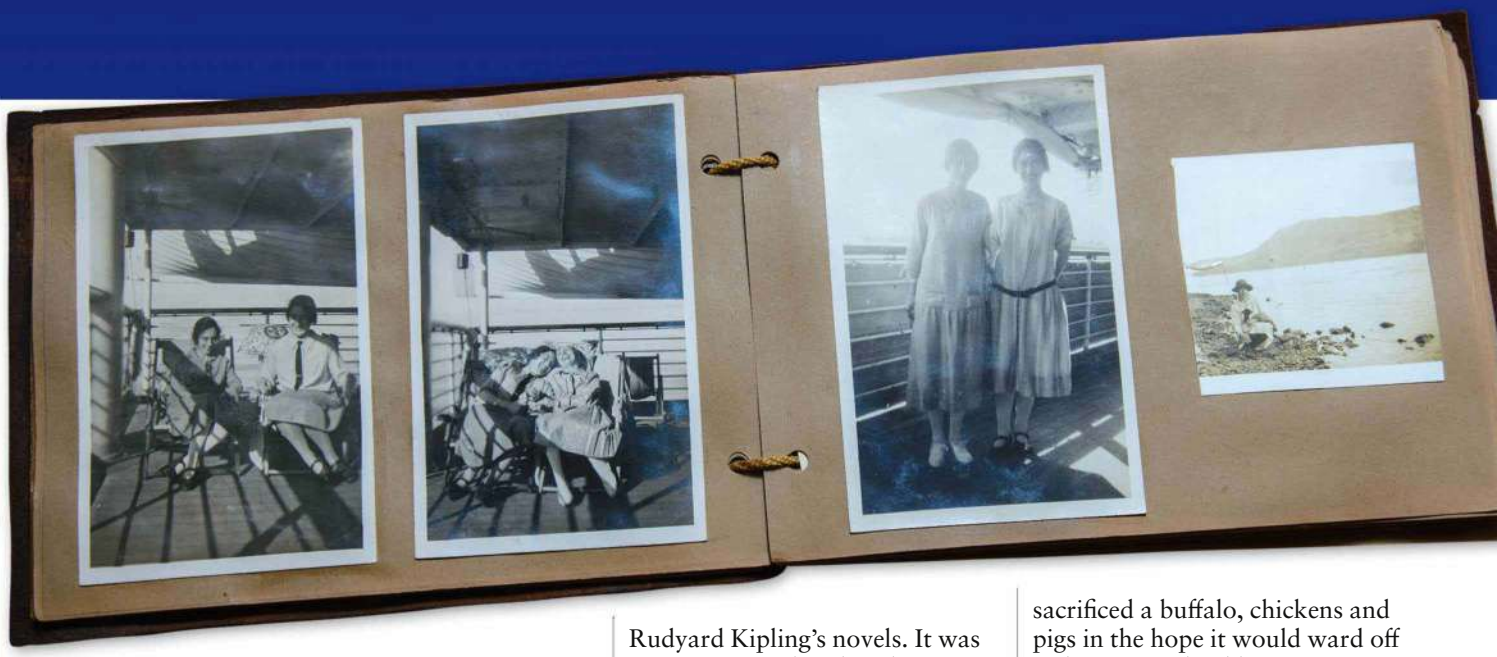
"My grandmother, Elizabeth, was born in 1896 in County Cork, Ireland. Her parents were Protestants, but Elizabeth attended a Roman Catholic school and was taught by nuns. It was probably the best one in the area.

"There were several vicars in Elizabeth's family, and one of her brothers also became a missionary. Her father William Beamish Lane was a character. He came home drunk one time and couldn't be bothered to get off his horse, so he rode it up the stairs."

Elizabeth began training for missionary work in the early 1920s. Female volunteers usually studied teaching or nursing, and Elizabeth chose the latter. None of the trainees knew where they would be posted to – it could have been China, the Arctic or Africa among other places.

In 1926, Ted and Elizabeth were posted to Burma and sailed to ▶

Inspired by her grandparents' experiences of Burma, Lucy has woven them into her debut novel *Callings* (2023)



Lucy's cousin had a family album that included photographs of her grandparents on the voyage to Burma

▶ Rangoon. They were stationed at BCMS Mohnyin, a mission in north-east Burma, not far from the border with China. "The leader of the mission, Tim Houghton, wrote a memoir of their time there called *Dense Jungle Green* (1937), which helped me enormously with my research."

Basic Accommodation

It was the team's aim to convert as many of the local Jingpo people to Christianity as they could. The mission had a large villa bought from a colonial timber company, but often the missionaries' accommodation was basic and deep in the jungle, where most locals lived in houses on stilts.

"Both my grandparents fell in love with Burma, especially Ted who described his time there as the best years of his life. They loved the country, the people and the scenery. Then they fell in love with each other. Take a bunch of passionate young people and put them in the middle of the jungle. Some are going to fall in love."

The couple married in 1927 and soon after were sent to establish an outpost in the remote jade-mining area Lonkin.

Sadly, Ted and Elizabeth's first child was a stillborn son. They then had David in 1929, Ruth in 1931, and Michael in 1933. "We have a photograph of baby David sitting on the veranda of the mission house, which my grandmother had labelled 'A smile from Burma' before sending it home."

The children grew up in an environment reminiscent of Rudyard Kipling's novels. It was an exotic paradise, but danger lurked everywhere in the form of leopards, black panthers, crocodiles and 40 species of venomous snake. Diseases such as malaria and rabies were an ever-present threat.

Ted worked tirelessly for the mission. He built a church and a dispensary in the jungle, took services and made long expeditions across the province to spread the word of God. "The missionaries knew there would be some people they could convert to Christianity, and others who they wouldn't be able to touch.

Malevolent Forces

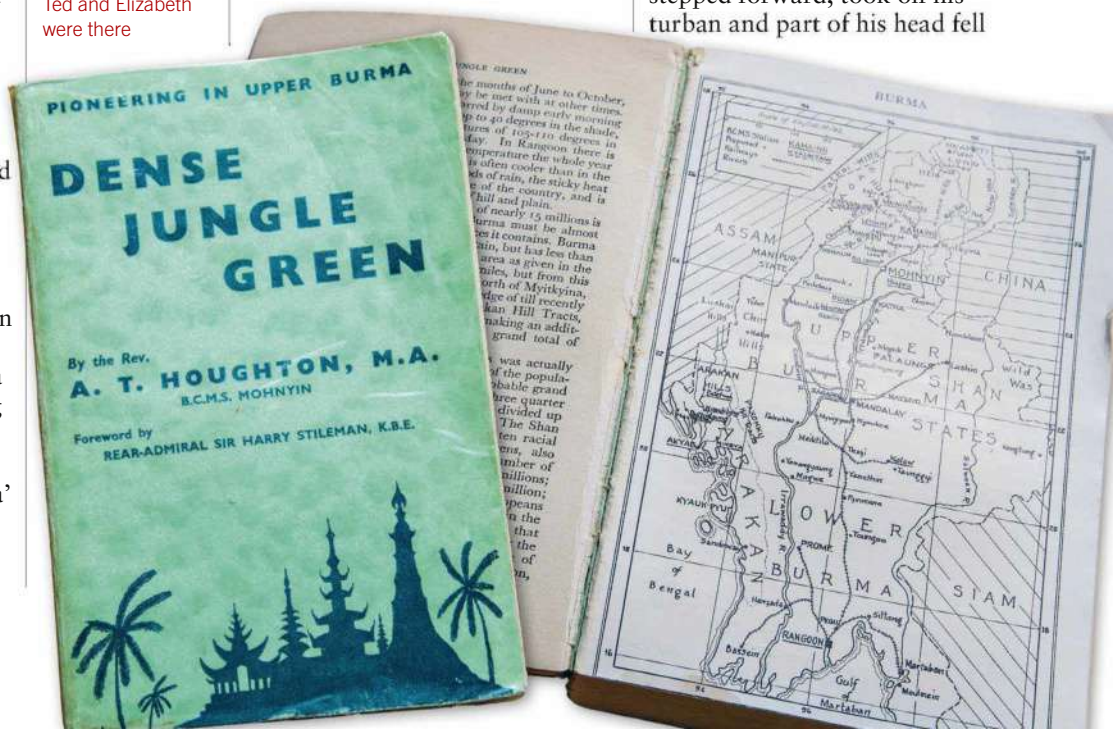
"They also had to work with the locals' sense of fear. Jingpo people were very afraid of spirits, powerful invisible forces that they believed influenced their lives. One local caught malaria, and he sacrificed a buffalo, chickens and pigs in the hope it would ward off evil spirits and aid his recovery."

Much of Ted and Elizabeth's work involved administering medical care to women in childbirth and injured mine workers. "We were treated like doctors, across an enormous area," Ted remarked.

The mines were rudimentary and the walls often gave way, so workers would come to the mission with horrific injuries after being crushed by boulders. Ever-resourceful, Ted converted an old pram into a cart to help one disabled man get about.

Although the injuries could be appalling, the local people endured them with stoicism. "My aunt was stung by a bee one day, and amid the fuss a calm and courteous Burmese man arrived on the scene. He was injured, but he insisted that the nurses care for Ruth before seeing him. "He stepped forward, took off his turban and part of his head fell

Dense Green Jungle is an account by the head of the mission around the time Ted and Elizabeth were there



away. He had been clawed by a tiger while working in the jungle. Elizabeth helped to sew his skin back together and administered iodine in case of infection.

A Drunken Accident

"Some of the local people liked to drink, and would get into fights. All of the men carried a long sword-like knife called a 'dhah', usually for defence against animals. If they got cross they would start swinging these knives around, and the consequences could be disastrous. One man, five days' walk away in the jungle, beheaded his wife in a drunken fury and was sent to a penal colony on the Andaman Islands."

During training, Elizabeth had always been selected for theatre duty in the missionary hospital she attended once a week. Ted was very impressed by her work – particularly when she used arterial forceps to save the life of a man who was injured down to the bone and bleeding heavily. Elizabeth managed to pull the artery out, bind it and stop the bleeding.

"My grandmother was very brave and resourceful to have several children in the jungle, and to keep them and herself healthy." Despite her efforts, disease hit the family sporadically and David suffered from jaundice and dengue fever. Ruth developed rickets, due to a lack of fresh food.

The family remained in Burma until 1942, when the Japanese invasion forced them out. They moved to Tiruchirappalli in Madras (now Tamil Nadu), India, for two years, where Ted worked for the Church of India.

"In 1944, the family returned to Britain, probably for the children's schooling. My father suffered for not having much formal education until the age of 15. He was sent to boarding school in England, and found it difficult to adapt.

"He graduated from university and worked as a librarian, but he didn't enjoy it. He was much happier working for the forestry commission in Wales, in an environment that he loved.

"Ted missed life in Burma, but he was adaptable and threw himself into parish work in Cambridge. Elizabeth embraced the change of location and became quite the city-dweller."

Lucy has some mementos of her grandparents' time in Burma, which she cherishes. One is Ted's Bible bag, which he carried through the jungle constantly, like his faith. Another is an ornate silver bowl, which missionary colleagues gave to Ted and Elizabeth as a wedding present.

Lucy's novel offers a fascinating glimpse into a bygone era. "I wrote *Callings* as a work of fiction because I believe that imagination can be a way to answer questions about what really matters to people." It's also a tender tribute to two much-loved grandparents.

Lucy cherishes Ted's Bible bag, which he kept with him constantly

Below right: the silver bowl that was a wedding gift from their missionary colleagues

UNP/TONY BUCKINGHAM

Resources

These resources helped Lucy uncover her relations' lives

ARCHIVE

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES (SOAS)

a University of London, 10 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
t 020 7637 2388
e *libenquiry@soas.ac.uk*
w **soas.ac.uk/research/library**

SOAS holds a large collection of Christian missionary archives dating from the 18th century. These include letters, reports, photographs and audio-visual footage left by missionaries who worked across Asia and Africa.

BOOK

Dense Jungle Green
AT Houghton
BCMS, 1937

This first-hand account of life at BCMS Mohnyin (where Ted and Elizabeth Rushton served) gave Lucy invaluable insight into the missionaries' daily life. It can be downloaded for free from Missiology (**tinyurl.com/missiology-dense**).

PHOTO ALBUM

Lucy's cousin shared an old family album with images of her grandparents' voyage to Burma, her father as a baby and religious services held on their veranda.

Callings (2023) is available now (£9.99 paperback, or £3.22 on Kindle)

TELL YOUR STORY

Share your family story with us and you could appear in the magazine!

Please write to us at the address on page 6 or email *wdytyaeditorial@ourmedia.co.uk*

WOMEN AND THE CRIME OF BIGAMY

The laws relating to bigamy have changed over the centuries. Fairly constant, though, is the differing treatment of female and male bigamists. **Rebecca Probert** explains

Many of us may suspect we have a bigamist lurking in our family tree. There might be rumours, or a suspicious remarriage where we have not been able to trace the death of the first spouse. But not everyone who remarried during the lifetime of a spouse without first obtaining a divorce was risking prosecution. To gauge whether they were at risk – and what they were risking – we need to know when a remarriage would be a criminal offence and how it was punished. Both these things, as we shall see, changed over time. And although the law did not explicitly differentiate between male and female bigamists, there were some important differences in practice.

Our starting point is 1604, when bigamy was first made a criminal offence punishable by death in England and Wales. Crucially, the new Act contained various exemptions – for example, for those whose spouse had been 'beyond the seas' for seven years, or simply absent and not known to be alive during that time. In such cases, if the first spouse was in fact still alive, the second marriage would be void, but not an offence. Given the greater opportunities for men to travel, these exemptions may have benefited wives more than husbands. Also exempt were those who remarried after a 'divorce', which in this context meant simply an order from the church courts authorising a separation, rather than a decree terminating a marriage.

A One-Time Benefit

During the 17th century, acquittal rates were very high. Even if convicted, men could often avoid the death penalty by pleading 'benefit of clergy', which by this time required no more than the ability to read a verse of the Bible. Wives who remarried bigamously were in a riskier position, as it was not until 1691 that benefit of clergy was extended to them. It was only an exemption that could be pleaded once, though. In 1693, Mary Stokes, convicted of bigamy for a second time, made history as the last person to be sentenced to death for the crime at the Old Bailey.

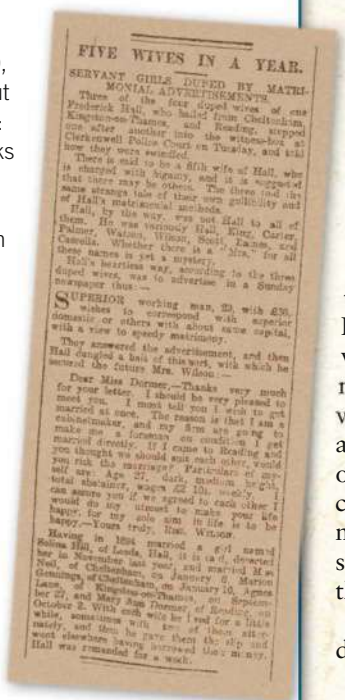
Convicted bigamists who avoided the death penalty would still be branded

A Serial Bigamist The story of John Kinsella

In 1900, 37-year-old laundress Mary Ann Dormer spotted a newspaper advertisement: "Superior working man, 23, with £30, wishes to correspond with superior domestic or others with about same capital, with a view to speedy matrimony." Speedy indeed: within a few weeks, they were married. And less than three weeks after their wedding, the groom had vanished.

Mary Ann went to the police for help. A fortnight later, her supposed husband was arrested for bigamy. His name was John Woodgate Kinsella, and his first marriage had taken place in 1894. There had, in addition, been marriages to Mary Beale, Marion Jennings and Agnes Lane. The pattern was almost always the same: an advertisement; a swift marriage; the appropriation of any money, jewellery or other property of the new wife; and his swift abandonment of her.

At the Central Criminal Court, John pleaded guilty and was sentenced to penal servitude for five years. On his being released, his first wife petitioned for a divorce. By the time it was granted, John was back behind bars. His crime was again bigamy. This time, he spent a full seven years inside, but three years after his release, he was convicted of double bigamy and sentenced to yet another seven-year term. He spent far longer in prison than he did collectively with his wives.



FIVE WIVES IN A YEAR.

SERVANT GIRLS DUPED BY MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

Three of the four duped wives of one Frederick Hall, who hailed from Cheltenham, Kingston-on-Thames, and Reading, stepped one after another into the witness-box at Clerkenwell Police Court on Tuesday, and told how they were swindled.

There is said to be a fifth wife of Hall, who is charged with bigamy, and it is suggested that there may be others. The three told the same strange tale of their own gullibility and of Hall's matrimonial methods.

Hall, by the way, was not Hall to all of them. He was variously Hall, King, Carter, Palmer, Watson, Wilson, Scott, Eames, and Cassella. Whether there is a "Mrs." for all these names is yet a mystery.

Hall's heartless way, according to the three duped wives, was to advertise in a Sunday newspaper thus:—

SUPERIOR working man, 23, with £30, wishes to correspond with superior domestic or others with about same capital, with a view to speedy matrimony.

They answered the advertisement, and then Hall dangled a bait of this sort, with which he secured the future Mrs. Wilson:—

Dear Miss Dormer,—Thanks very much for your letter. I should be very pleased to meet you. I must tell you I wish to get married at once. The reason is that I am a cabinetmaker, and my firm are going to make me a foreman on condition I get married directly. If I came to Reading and you thought we should suit each other, would you risk the marriage? Particulars of myself are: Age 27, dark, medium height, total abstainer, wages £2 10s. weekly. I can assure you if we agreed to each other I would do my utmost to make your life happy, for my sole aim in life is to be happy.—Yours truly, Hall, Wilson.

Having in 1894 married a girl named Selina Hill, of Leeds, Hall, it is said, deserted her in November last year, and married Miss Neil, of Cheltenham, on January 6, Marion Jennings, of Cheltenham, on January 10, Agnes Lane, of Kingston-on-Thames, on September 27, and Mary Ann Dormer, of Reading, on October 2. With each wife he lived for a little while, sometimes with one of them alternately, and then he gave them the slip and went elsewhere having borrowed their money. Hall was remanded for a week.

Dr Syntax, a popular 19th-century fictional character illustrated by Thomas Rowlandson, in court to hear a case of desertion and bigamy in Bath, 1820

on the hand with a red-hot iron, and branding continued to be the main penalty for bigamy for much of the 18th century. Although acquittal rates remained high, especially for women, the courts had no discretion when it came to punishing the guilty.

The 1780s saw a brief window in which the only penalty was likely to be a small fine and a relatively short period of imprisonment. But this leniency was quickly reversed in 1795, when legislation was passed allowing bigamists to be transported to Australia, or sent to prison for up to two years.

Bigamy has at different times been punished by death, branding and transportation

This new discretion as to the appropriate sentence led courts to begin to identify factors that would either aggravate or mitigate the offence. In the first half of the 19th century, around 15 per cent of those convicted of bigamy were sentenced to transportation. Women were far less likely to be sent to Botany Bay than men, and far more likely to receive lenient punishment, with just over a quarter being imprisoned for a month or less.

One reason women began to receive more lenient treatment was because bigamy was increasingly treated as a sexual offence, rather than an offence against God or the institution of marriage. Judges roundly condemned men who had 'ruined' chaste women by deceiving them into a bigamous marriage. By contrast, women who had deceived men were not regarded as having harmed them in the same way.

The 19th century also saw changes to the definition of bigamy, with the scope of the exemptions being narrowed in 1828. New legislation stipulated that a remarrying spouse would only escape conviction if they had had no knowledge of their first spouse being alive in the previous seven years, regardless of where in the world the latter happened to be. Again, this change had particular implications for women. Thousands more men than women had been transported to Australia during the preceding decades. From 1828, any letters from, or information about, a transportee meant that a spouse left behind would have no defence to bigamy if they remarried – even if they had waited seven years since they had last set eyes on their transported partner.

In addition, from 1828 onward, only a divorce terminating a marriage, rather than a formal separation, provided a defence. Such divorces were now at least possible, if only by the convoluted and very expensive means of a private Act of Parliament.

Men Behaving Badly

A few hundred men succeeded in divorcing their adulterous wives by this means. But only four women succeeded in obtaining a Parliamentary divorce, and each of them had to show that their adulterous husband had behaved ▶

This engraving by Edward Williams from 1787 was at a time when bigamy was treated relatively leniently

particularly badly – for example, by also committing bigamy or incest.

Further reform in 1857 established the new Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes. The new process for obtaining a divorce was considerably cheaper, and 'bigamy with adultery' was one of the grounds on which wives could divorce their husbands. (A husband only had to show that his wife had committed adultery – a double standard that continued until 1923). Yet despite this new remedy, a spouse's bigamy did not necessarily mark the end of a marriage. Around one-fifth of bigamists returned to their first spouse after serving their sentence.

The second half of the 19th century also saw the end of transportation. From 1861, bigamy was instead punishable by up to seven years' penal servitude. Only a few bigamists received the maximum penalty. As previously, sentences tended to be lower and acquittals higher for women. At the Old Bailey, the most common outcome for a woman accused of bigamy was either to be acquitted, or to receive a sentence of less than seven days. And in 1889, the case of Martha Tolson – who had remarried believing her husband to be drowned at sea – led to a major change in the criminal law, confirming that such a belief would be a defence to a charge of bigamy.

TOP TIP!

Proof of a spouse's conviction for bigamy wasn't needed when applying for divorce. Don't assume there wasn't a bigamy prosecution just because none is cited in the divorce papers.

Unprecedented Levels

The two world wars saw prosecutions for bigamy rising to unprecedented levels. The percentage of women being prosecuted increased particularly sharply, with many of those convicted having been claiming multiple separation allowances in respect of their soldier husbands. Although the number of prosecutions dropped in the 1920s and 1930s, and again in the 1950s, they remained higher than before the First World War, reflecting a more general increase in marital breakdown.

There was a sharp drop in prosecutions in the 1960s as the growing acceptability of non-marital cohabitation meant that individuals whose first marriage had broken down did not feel the need to go through a second ceremony in order to live with a new partner. And from 1971, once a divorce could be obtained on the basis of separation alone, those who might in a previous generation have resorted to bigamy could obtain a divorce and remarry legally.

Today, the ease of obtaining a divorce means that the unhappily married have no need to resort to bigamy. But the absence of divorce was only ever one reason for committing bigamy. Factors such as financial, sexual and emotional exploitation have also played – and continue to play – a key role. And so cases continue to occur.

Resources

Take your research further

BOOK

Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved? The Family Historian's Guide to Marital Breakdown, Separation, Widowhood, and Remarriage: from 1600 to the 1970s

Rebecca Probert

Takeaway, 2015

Rebecca explains the law relating to divorce, and when a remarriage might be void and/or bigamous.

WEBSITES

OLD BAILEY ONLINE

w **oldbaileyonline.org**

A free searchable database that includes reports of 2,384 Old Bailey bigamy trials, 1674–1913.

ANCESTRY

w **ancestry.co.uk**

Details of prosecutions can be found in the Criminal Registers (1791–1892) and the Calendar of Prisoners (1868–1929), while in Civil Divorce Records, 1858–1918, the divorce petitions may include details of a bigamous marriage, including ones that were never prosecuted.

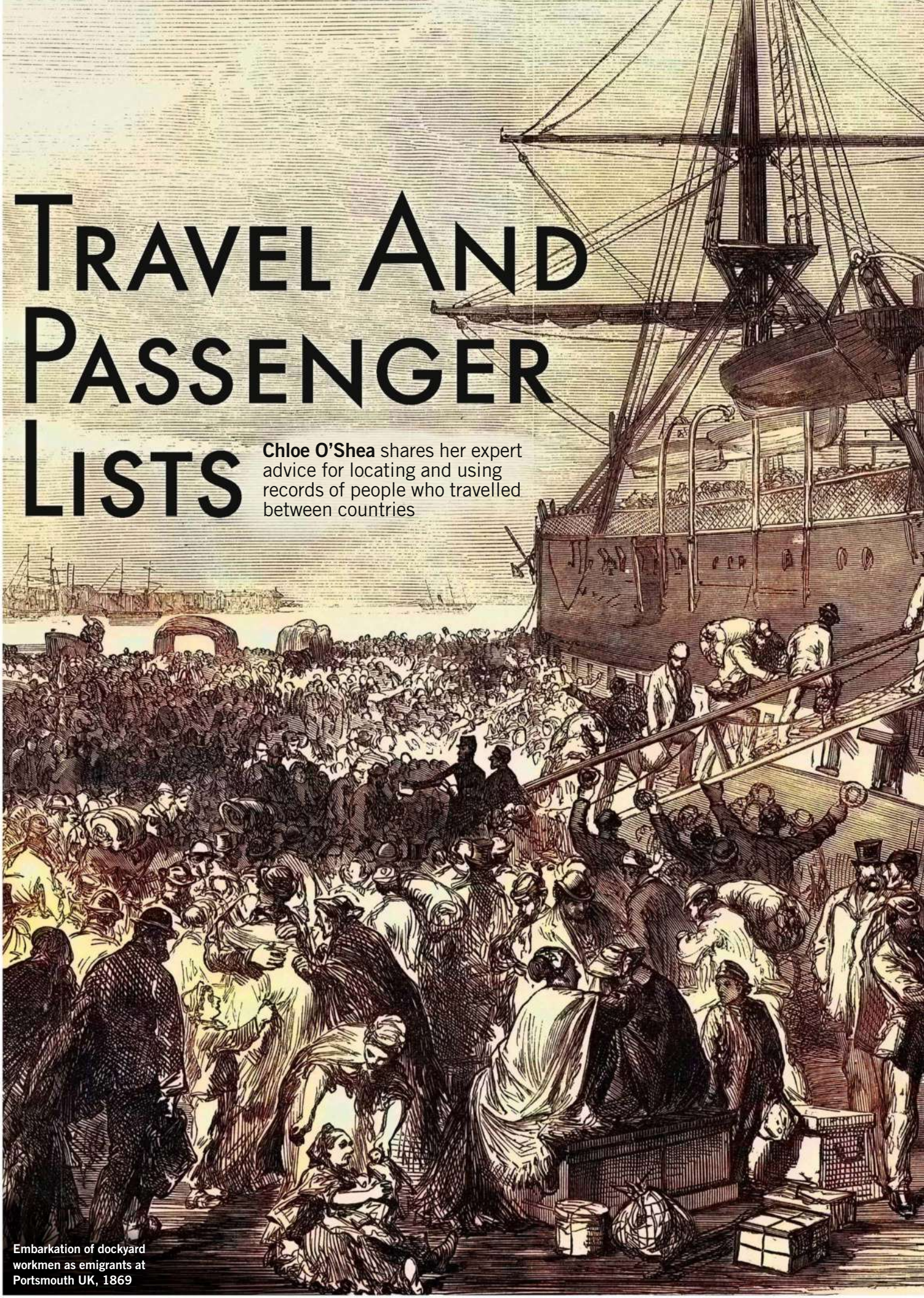
BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

w **britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk**

Newspapers on this site are a great source of information about the assizes, where bigamy cases were tried. Also accessible on **findmypast.co.uk**.

Travel And Passenger Lists

Chloe O'Shea shares her expert advice for locating and using records of people who travelled between countries



Embarkation of dockyard workmen as emigrants at Portsmouth UK, 1869

GETTY IMAGES

British emigrants en route from Liverpool to Canada, published in the *Illustrated London News*, 15 November 1884

Passenger lists are used by family historians to trace the overseas movements of their ancestors – often due to emigration. You may be surprised to find that your forebear also travelled abroad for work, to study, to visit relatives or for tourism. Whatever the reason, there is a chance that one of your relations may appear in a passenger list and this can open up a new world of research possibilities for you in a different country.

Emigration may not always be immediately obvious to the researcher. An ancestor may disappear from one or two census returns before reappearing with no obvious clues as to where they have been. Many emigrants chose to return to their homeland, perhaps after a failed attempt at finding work overseas.

If there is a gap in a forebear's documents in the UK, it is worth searching passenger lists to see if they journeyed abroad. These usually relate to long-distance journeys terminating outside Europe – so if your ancestor travelled to France, for example, there is unlikely to be a record unless they then travelled further afield.

Passenger lists are held in archives worldwide, and not all have survived. This can make it difficult to know where to search, or if what you are looking for still exists.

There are many reasons why a person may have chosen to relocate to another country. This was often for better work prospects, but may also have been to join relatives who were already there, to evade the law, or to escape persecution. The motive is not always obvious, and you may be left with unanswered questions. The best thing to do is to gather as much information as you can from the records in order to piece together the answer.

The amount of information you will be able to muster will depend on when your ancestor travelled, their starting point and destination. This also affects where the records are now held. Ships in the UK were only required to keep a list of passengers from 1842, although the majority of surviving records today date from 1890 onwards. Other countries' legislation varied, so if your ancestor travelled elsewhere in the world, their entry may survive for an earlier date.

Outbound Passengers

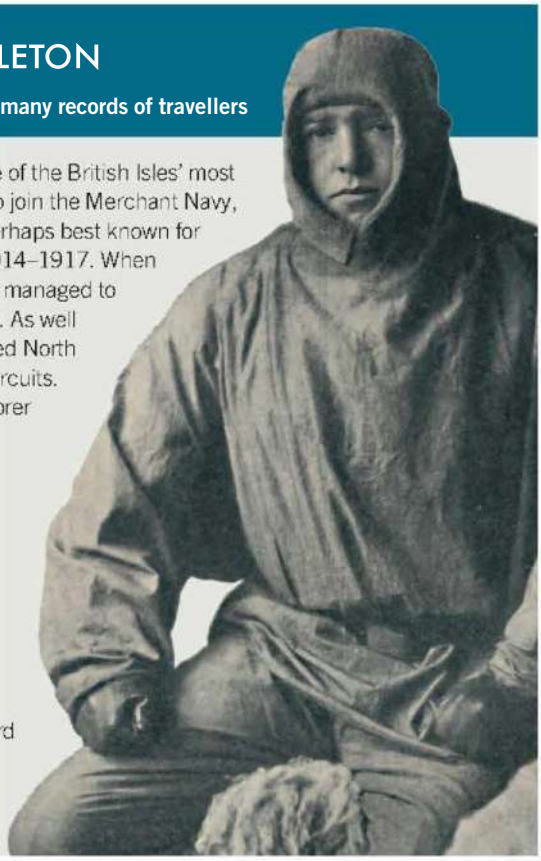
If your ancestor travelled overseas from the UK, these are referred to as outbound or outward passenger lists. These are held at The National Archives ▶

TOP TIP!

There were often separate lists for British passengers and for those born abroad, referred to as "aliens". So do check the whole passenger list for family members.

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton

1874–1922 **The explorer appears in many records of travellers**



Born in County Kildare, Ireland, Shackleton is one of the British Isles' most famous polar explorers. Having left school at 16 to join the Merchant Navy, he travelled widely from then on. Shackleton is perhaps best known for leading the legendary *Endurance* expedition of 1914–1917. When the ship became stranded off Elephant Island, he managed to lead a rescue mission saving all 28 men on board. As well as his Antarctic expeditions, Shackleton also visited North America, South America and Europe on lecture circuits.

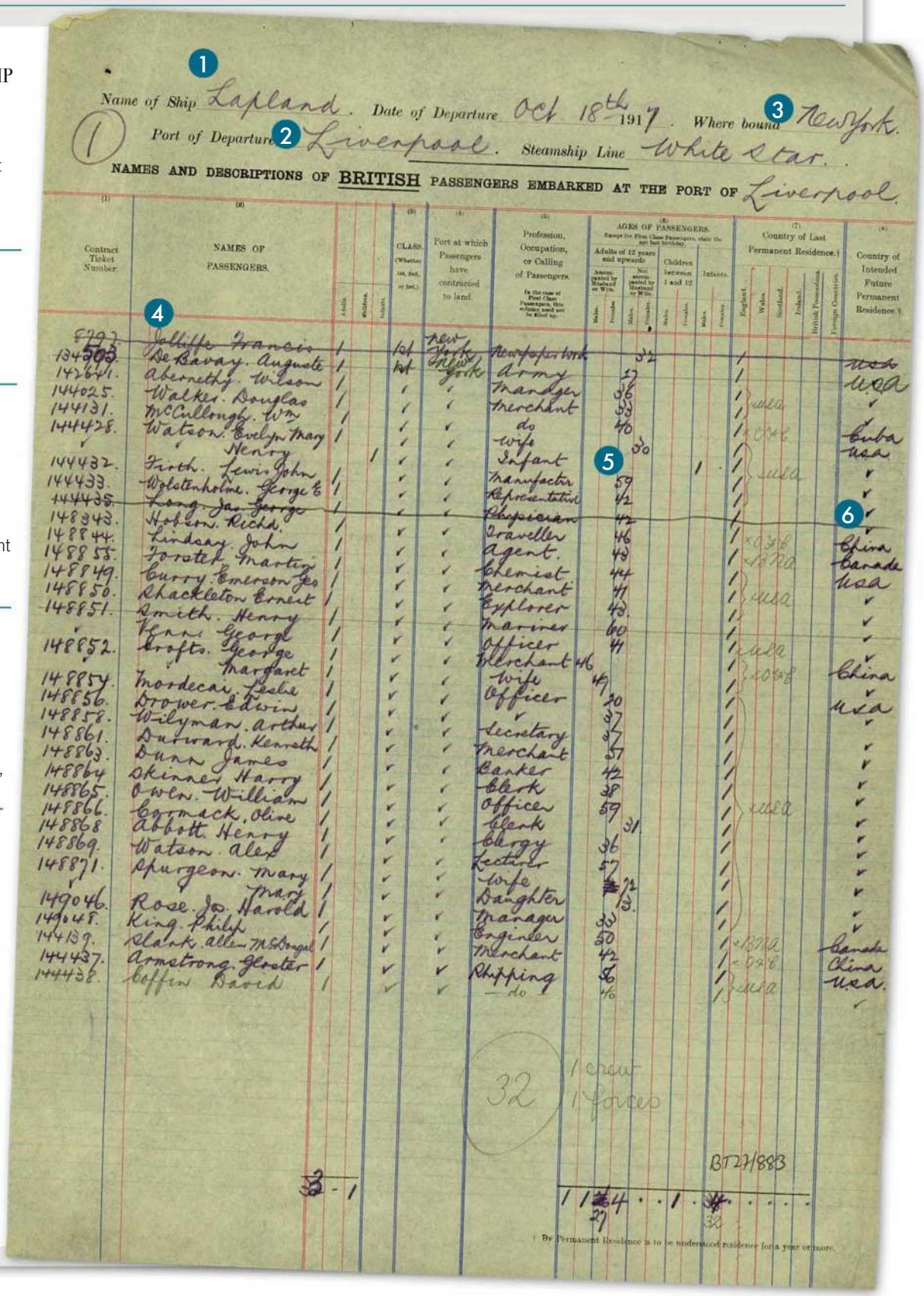
Many passenger lists with mentions of the explorer have survived. These most commonly involve his travel between the UK and North America, with further journeys to Australia and New Zealand among others. The most noteworthy entry is in the incoming passenger lists to the UK. On 28 May 1917, 43-year-old Shackleton can be seen travelling first class from New York to Liverpool. Along with fellow explorer Aubrey Ninnis, his last country of residence is given as "Antarctic".

Being stranded in the polar regions did not dampen his thirst for travel as the annotated record shows (see page 31). Shackleton died of a heart attack aged 47 while on an Antarctic expedition, after ignoring doctors' concerns about his health.

GETTY IMAGES/METROPOLITAN POLICE MUSEUM

Passenger List, 1917

This outward passenger list from 18 October 1917, showing Ernest Shackleton travelling to New York from Liverpool, is held by The National Archives and available on Ancestry (**ancestry.co.uk**)



1 Name Of Ship

You can look for more details of the vessel, including images if available, at **shippingandshipbuilding.com** and **crewlist.org.uk**.

2 Port Of Departure

This might not be the port closest to your forebear's residence.

3 Where Bound

Remember that this section refers to the destination of each specific ship, rather than the final endpoint of your relation's journey.

4 Names Of Passengers

Some passenger lists are recorded in alphabetical order whereas others, such as this example, are not.

5 Ages Of Passengers

Ages are often divided up into further categories. Here it is noted if passengers are accompanied by their spouse.

6 Country

The "Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence" column can indicate those for whom this is a connecting journey.

▶ (TNA) at Kew in series BT 27 for 1890–1960 and series ADM 30/35 for 1831–1834 for travellers to the Mediterranean. The lists from BT 27 have been digitised and are available on both Findmypast in its collection 'Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890–1960' (**search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/passenger-lists-leaving-uk-1890-1960**) and Ancestry in its 'UK and Ireland, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960' set (**ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2997/**). They contain the names of about 24 million passengers, and each entry provides a great deal of useful information.

Roll call of boys about to emigrate to Canada from Saint Nicholas Industrial School, East Ham, Essex, 1908

First Class Records

Richard Haddon, for example, travelled on the *Highland Warrior*, departing from Fishguard in Wales on 29 August 1911 and arriving in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22 days later. Richard is noted to be an unmarried Scottish man who travelled first class. Passenger lists were not standardised until later in the 20th century, so the information you see on each list will differ slightly. Extra information may include the passenger's age, their occupation, the name of a friend or relative, their intended final destination, and their place of birth.

If your ancestor travelled to the UK from overseas, these are referred to as inbound or inward records. Many inbound passenger lists are held at TNA in series BT 26 for 1878–1960 (although few lists before 1890 have survived) and BT 32 for 1906–1951. The former have been digitised and are available via Ancestry's collection 'UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960' (**ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1518**).

The information supplied in the lists varies in the same way as the outbound records. One example shows that 19-year-old Gwen Osment arrived in London from Brisbane, Australia, on 14 April 1923 on board the *Moreton Bay*. Above Gwen's entry are two other Osments, 45-year-old Ernest and 46-year-old Mary – presumably Gwen's parents. Relationships are sometimes stated in passenger lists, although not in this case. The form may request

More than 500,000 passports were issued between 1795 and 1916

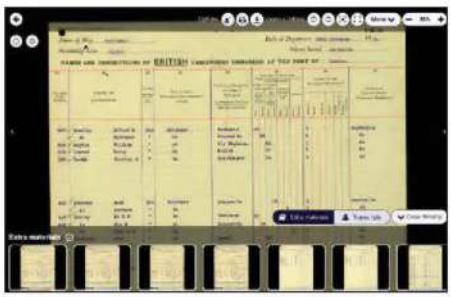
Expert Picks

Chloe recommends these three major digital collections for researching your ancestors' voyages

Ancestry

w **ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1518**

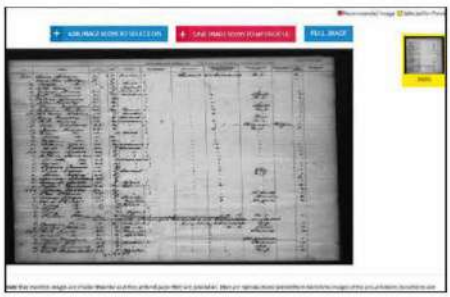
Ancestry's collection contains digitised and transcribed passenger lists from The National Archives' series BT 26 recording travellers to the UK from overseas: over 16 million names.



Ellis Island Foundation

w **https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger**

A mine of genealogical information, this site includes a database of 65 million passengers who arrived in New York, 1820–1957.



Findmypast

w **bit.ly/fmp-pass-leaving-uk**

Search over 24 million entries in digitised and transcribed passenger lists from TNA's BT 27 recording those travelling overseas from UK ports. They're on Ancestry as well.

GETTY IMAGES

the name of a relative living in their intended destination. Be sure to check the entirety of a passenger list when you find an individual you are looking for. A family group may not be listed together as they are in Gwen's case.

Overseas Lists

Other countries' inbound passenger lists are increasingly being released on subscription websites, particularly Ancestry where the examples include the collections 'Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865–1935' (**ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1263**) and 'Gothenburg, Sweden, Passenger Lists, 1869–1951' (**ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1910**). The largest record set is 'New York, US, Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957' (**ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/7488**) with more than 95 million entries.

Your ancestors' trip may have involved a connecting journey. A common location for this was Hamburg, Germany. The records are held at Hamburg State Archives, but are also on Ancestry as 'Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850–1934'.

If your forebears emigrated to the USA, you may discover that they travelled there via a Canadian port. You might only be able to find part of your ancestor's journey via passenger lists, with the other bit of their journey missing.

As well as passenger lists, you may wish to look into other related documentation. For example, the Maritime Museum in Liverpool (**liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/maritime-museum**) holds ephemera such as diaries and travel tickets relating to those travelling through the city.

In addition, more than 500,000 passports were issued between 1795 and 1916. However, they were not required for passengers who were arriving at or leaving from Britain until 1915. Findmypast holds the 'Index to Register of Passport Applications 1851–1903' record set containing the names of more than 375,000 passport applicants.

Did you know?

Families did not always journey together. It was common for one or two members to travel first to find work and set up home before the rest would join them.

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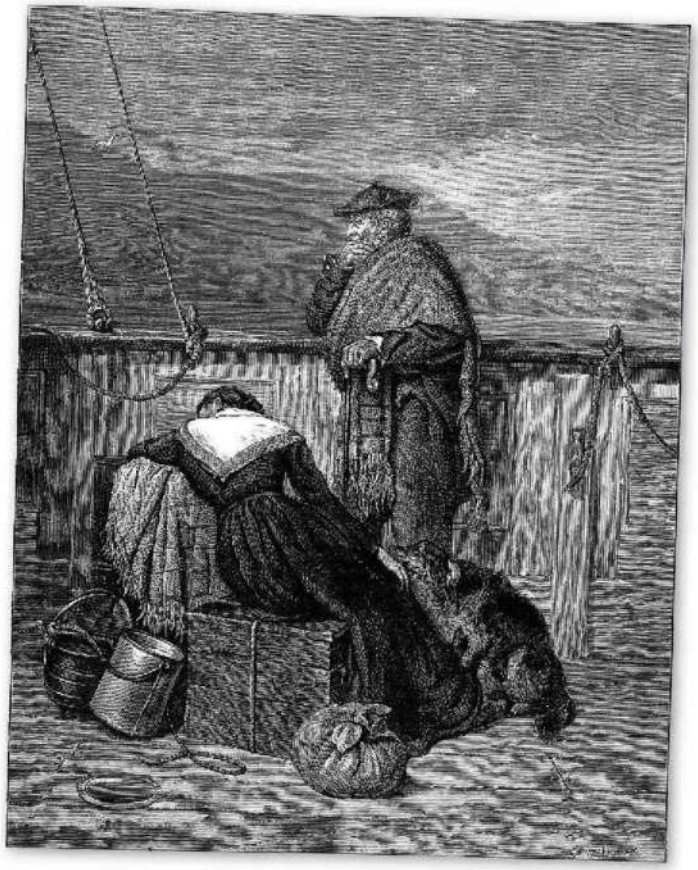

'Lochaber no More' shows dispossessed Scottish crofters departing by sea, 1886

Read All About It

Newspapers are another valuable resource, with many lists of passengers published in the UK and abroad. The details supplied vary. For example, on 25 October 1841, *The Albion* published the names of all the passengers of the steamship *Caledonia*, which travelled from Boston, USA, and Halifax, Canada, to Liverpool. The names are given in various formats, such as "Mrs Raynor", "AH Finley" and "Isaac Buchanan", and the only people not named are the servants. On 8 April 1922, *The Hampshire Advertiser* noted the arrival of the *Olympic* at Southampton from New York. There were 1,400 passengers so unsurprisingly they are not all listed, although those of note are named along with their occupation. These included the soprano Maria Jeritza (1887–1982) and composer Irving Berlin (1888–1989).

Try searching for your ancestors in online passenger list databases to see if there is any evidence of them travelling overseas. Once this is found, you can choose to research their life in a foreign country through further records such as census returns and newspaper entries.

CHLOE O'SHEA is a genealogist and the author of *Discover Your Dorset Ancestors* (2022). For more details, visit **thepastrevealed.co.uk**

Resources

Take your research further

BOOK

Migration Records
Roger Kershaw
A&C Black, 2009
This guide for family historians contains a wide array of practical advice and ideas that will help you trace your ancestors who migrated worldwide.

WEBSITES

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
w **tinyurl.com/naa-arrivals**
Find out how to research the records of any relations who travelled to Australia by sea or air.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND
w **nls.uk/catalogues/scots-abroad**
Here you can learn about your globe-trotting Scottish ancestors, including those who went to Australasia and North America.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
w **tinyurl.com/tna-guide-emig**
The National Archives' guide to searching for records of emigrants includes passenger lists, passport registers, correspondence and official documentation. The main guide for immigration is at **tinyurl.com/tna-guide-immig**.

THE SHIPS LIST
w **theshipslist.com**
This archived website maintains its relevance today, providing free transcriptions of worldwide passenger lists with a useful section answering frequently asked questions.

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www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning
Email: cll-sigs@strath.ac.uk

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Young Jewish men being carted off in the Warsaw Ghetto, 1941

The Holocaust

Jonathan Scott finds resources for researching the genocide of European Jews during WW2

Within seven months during the Second World War, Zvi Kopolovich lost his father, brother and mother in the Holocaust. "We had our revenge: the survivors were able to raise magnificent families – among them myself. This is the revenge and the consolation."

The Holocaust (or Shoah) was the systematic murder of Europe's Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. They also enslaved and killed other groups seen as inferior or dangerous, including Roma, Poles, Slavs, Soviet prisoners of war, people with disabilities, political opponents and homosexuals.

The amount of data online for researching victims and survivors can seem overwhelming. There are several museums, international bodies and memorials that each contain millions of names. These are available to search for free, and many include free-to-view digitised documents and images. There are also expanding crowdsourcing projects and several collections you might not have come across. There is a great deal of data, including accounts – many harrowing – available online.

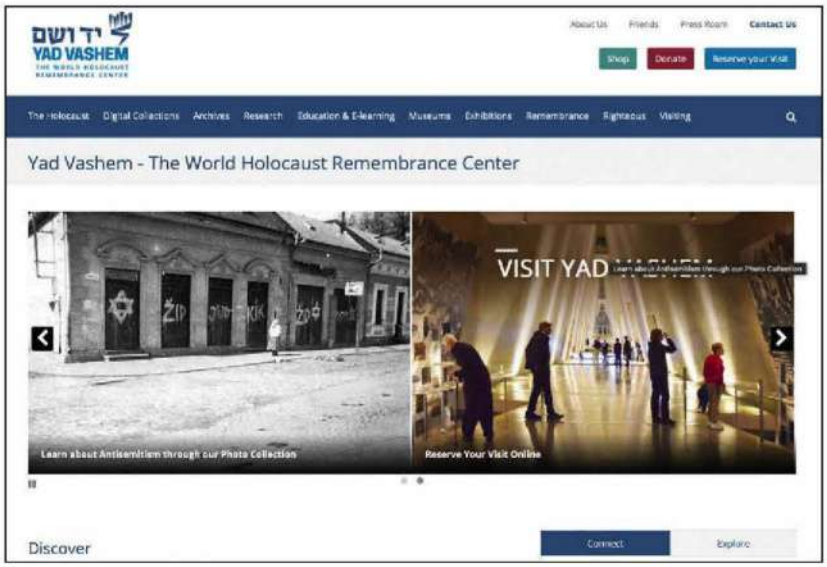
GETTY IMAGES

JEWISHGEN'S HOLOCAUST DATABASE

w **jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/**

JewishGen describes itself as the global home for Jewish genealogical research. As such, the website focuses on the wider subject of tracing Jewish ancestry. Click the research tab and options include 'country and topical databases', 'memorials and plaques', 'family trees', and this collection of databases that hold information on more than 3.79 million records containing details of victims and survivors of the genocide. It offers a useful 'phonetically like' option in the surname search box, or you can scroll down to investigate the component databases. For example, The Aufbau Database contains names of more than 33,000 Holocaust survivors published in the German-language newspaper *Aufbau* in New York, 1944–1946.

BEST WEBSITES



THE CENTRAL DATABASE OF SHOAH VICTIMS' NAMES

w **yadvashem.org**

The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem sits within a 45-acre campus comprising museums, exhibitions and memorials. The Thematic and Chronological Narrative defines exactly what it was, each chapter divided into shorter texts, with photos, testimonies, footage, documents, artefacts and art. The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names contains references to around 4.8 million of the near six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. Type a name and the results can be narrowed by birth or death year, and you'll often find biographical details and photographs within Pages of Testimony forms.

EVERYNAMECOUNTS

w **everynamecounts.arolsen-archives.org/en/**

This is the dedicated portal for a long-running crowdsourcing project created by the Arolsen Archives. #everynamecounts invites people to help transcribe the names of victims and survivors from digital versions of records held in the German town of Bad Arolsen. Once you've selected English language and pressed Start Now, you can decide which document collections to work on. These include Arrival Forms from Buchenwald, or the Arolsen Archives' Number Card Files and Central Location Index, both created to clarify the fate of hundreds of thousands of people after the war. This all feeds into the expanding Online Archive (**collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/**).

EXPERT'S CHOICE

Samantha Dulieu is Communications Manager at Wiener Holocaust Library

Nazi Storm Troopers marching through Nuremberg

As part of our ongoing effort to digitise one third of our collection, the Wiener Holocaust Library is launching a new digital library in summer 2024. This should revolutionise access to our archive. We hold one of the largest collections of Holocaust-era materials in the world, and the digital library will contain thousands of free-to-view digitised documents, including early eyewitness reports from concentration camps, evidence of political antisemitism and fascism, as well as newspapers and diaries written by Holocaust survivors and displaced persons after liberation.

In the meantime, our main website (**wienerholocaustlibrary.org**) has lots of material generated by our 90th anniversary celebrations. Dr Alfred Wiener set up the Jewish Central Information Office in 1933, opening its doors in Amsterdam in February 1934. There are details of past and current exhibitions, including new-look versions of our curations 'Fighting Antisemitism from Dreyfus to Today' and 'The Kerr Family in Flight'.

Via the 'What We Have' tab, you can find more detailed descriptions of the main collections or use the online catalogue, which has a number of subject guides. These include advice for researching trials, accessing our press cuttings, or finding out more about events in the history of the Holocaust such as the Kindertransport.

Finally, via 'Digital Resources', you can explore contemporary testimonies and reports of the November Pogrom in Germany and Austria in 1938, read eyewitness accounts gathered by staff at the library in the 1950s, or – using our Refugee map (**refugeemap.org**) – browse documents, diaries, images and interviews from those who escaped Nazism.

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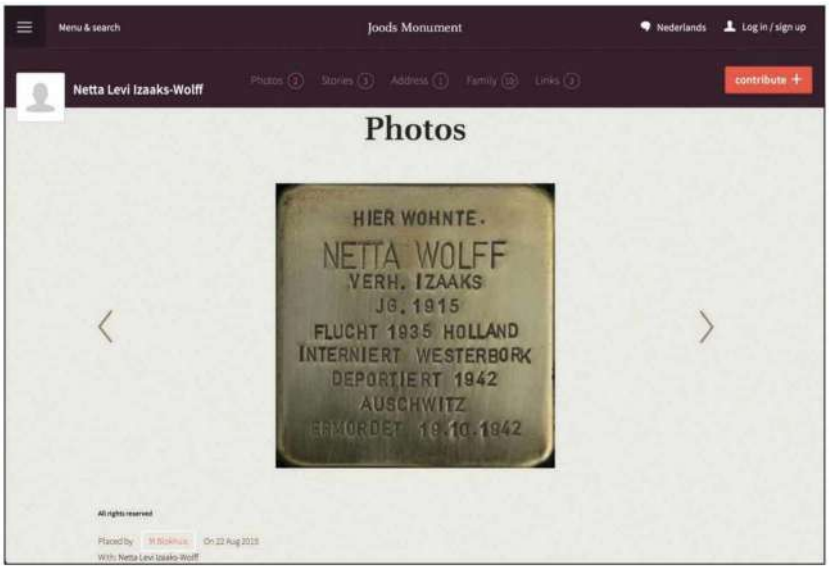

THE JEWISH MONUMENT

w **joodsmonument.nl**

The Jewish Monument commemorates more than 104,000 people who were persecuted in the Netherlands and did not survive the Holocaust. The main page is an enormous digital wall of names. Click at random and you find a name, with the place and date of birth and death. Many have more content attached – further stories and documentary evidence, often contributed by researchers or family members. There are articles about specific moments in the history of the Shoah, although you will sometimes find that headers, signposts and tabs remain untranslated. This is a moving monument that captures something of the horrifying scale of the bloodshed.

THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

w **ushmm.org**

The museum in Washington, D.C. hosts the Holocaust Encyclopaedia, with pages on various aspects of the story. There's a section on Chelmno, a village located about 30 miles north-west of Lodz, which became the first stationary facility where poison gas was used for mass murder. The ID Cards section explores the stories of 600 victims through their identification. This also leads to Behind Every Name a Story, a series of essays describing survivors' experiences, often with photographs, documents and ephemera attached; and the Ancestry-partnered World Memory Project. Also searchable via the site is the Database of Holocaust Survivor and Victim Names.

Go Further

Seven more sites that you can't afford to miss

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY TRUST

w **hmd.org.uk**

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January in 2024 – seeks to remember not only the Holocaust, but other genocides around the world including in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

w **jgsgb.org.uk**

The JGSGB supports the work of Yad Vashem's Names Recovery Project (**yvng.yadvashem.org**), encouraging researchers to create Pages of Testimony for those who perished.

JEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE

w **yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Armed_Resistance**

The online edition of the Yivo Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe includes this page on the history of armed resistance.

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

w **https://mjhnyc.org**

Thousands of items from the New York museum's collections are featured in its fascinating and ever-changing exhibitions. It also looks after audio and video testimonies by survivors and Jews who served in the Allied armies.

NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM

w **holocaust.org.uk**

Find out more about the museum, which is based in Laxton, Nottinghamshire.

POLISH CENTRE FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

w **https://getto.pl/en**

The Warsaw Ghetto site is a collection of material based on archival and bibliographical data.

SHOAH FOUNDATION

w **sfi.usc.edu**

Founded by director Steven Spielberg, the institute celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. You can explore some of the 55,000 audio-visual interviews it has carried out since 1994.

A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE AND DISCOVERY

All holidays can be meaningful, but what if you could also delve into the past and discover things about pivotal moments in history – and even yourself?

Whether you're a military history enthusiast, or have a more personal connection, battlefield tours offer a way to spark or broaden your interest in a specific topic, to pay respects to the fallen, and even bring you closer to your own family history.

For some, one of the most significant ways of honouring those lost in war is attending commemorative ceremonies. Visiting some of the most historic battlefields and memorials to mark 80 years since the D-Day Landings promises to be a poignant experience, and taking a fully escorted tour with Leger Holidays offers a comfortable and fascinating way to travel.

Its battlefield itineraries are carefully curated by experts and offer more than just a tour – they are a chance to learn new things and travel with others who share your interests. On the D-Day 80th Anniversary tour, in addition to attending the commemorations, you will also visit Arromanches, part of the Gold Beach landing area taken by the British on D-Day in 1944; Bayeux Cemetery, France's largest Second World War cemetery of Commonwealth soldiers; and the British Normandy Memorial, dedicated to soldiers who died under British command in the Normandy landings.

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The main benefit of embarking on your journey with Leger Holidays is that all their battlefield tours are led by specialist guides. They help bring history to life – ensuring every experience is interesting and memorable, while understanding the weight these events and places carry.

Knowledgeable, friendly and passionate about military history, the guides offer a wealth of information to ensure you get the most out of your trip – from strategies, tactics and weaponry, to how war impacted the lives of ordinary men and women. For the team, guiding is not simply a job. Their commitment to the subject enhances every battlefield tour.

Paul Reed has been a battlefield guide for more than 30 years and brings his own family history and perspective to the experience as Head Battlefield Guide for Leger Holidays. "Being one of the 'Airfix generation' I have had a lifelong interest in military history," Paul says. "My father fought at Anzio in the Second World War and both my grandfathers were in the First World War. I studied history at university and went on to do a master's degree. I also work as a military historian for television projects on both world wars, and have published several books about them."

On the road

Leger Holidays is the UK's leading provider of escorted battlefield tours, so while you're immersing yourself in history, they take care of everything else. Comfortable travel, hotel accommodation and key visits are included, with local departures on a choice of coaches, offering climate control, refreshments, and extra legroom on selected coaches. Each day will bring fascinating and moving visits to key locations, with extras that allow you to create a travel experience that suits your needs.

Above: Gold Beach

Above: Sword Beach

Left and below: D-Day Commemorations

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BATTLEFIELD TOURS
by LEGER HOLIDAYS

SCOTTISH CIVIL BIRTH

BIRTH REGISTER, 1911

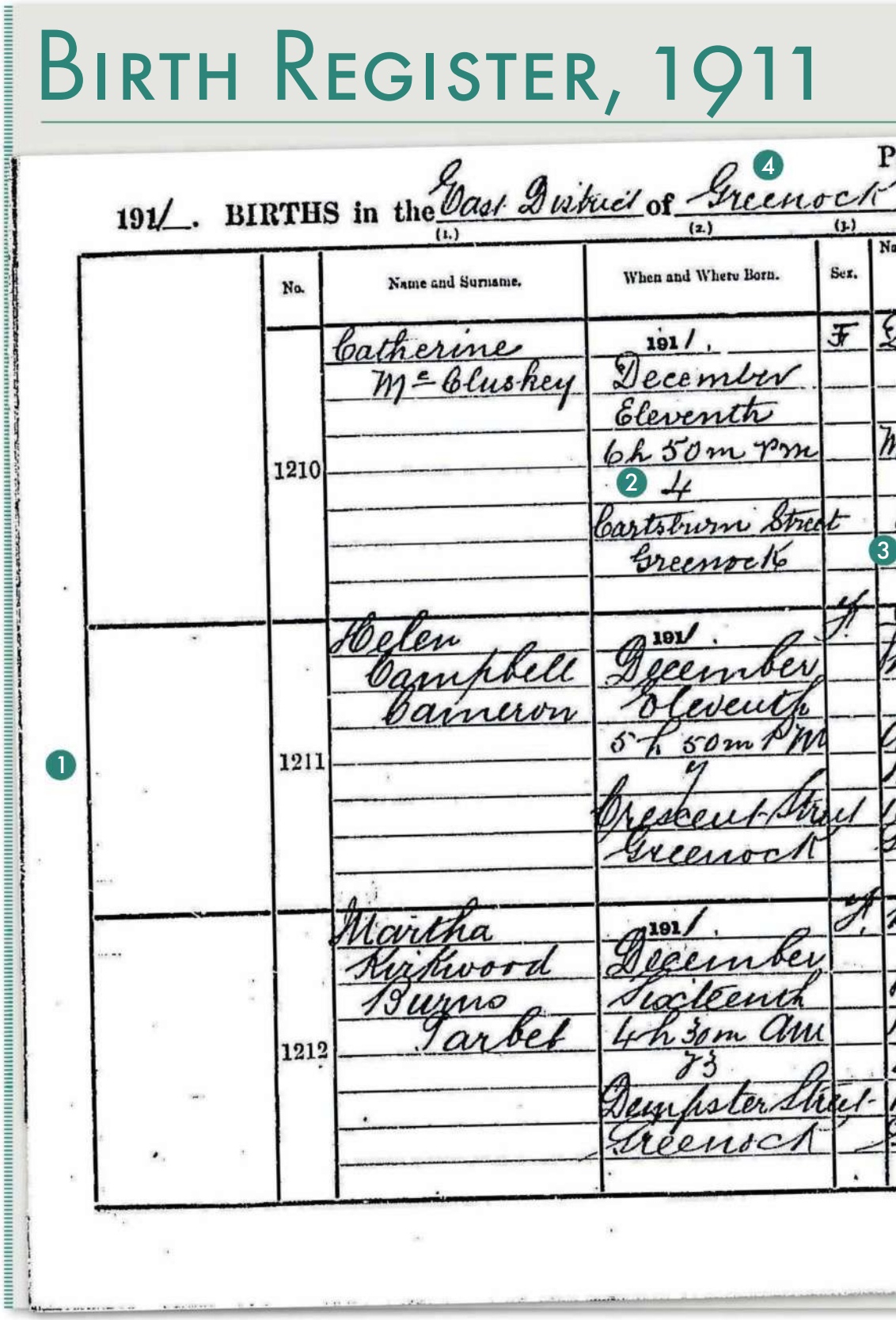
The civil registration of births, marriages and deaths began in Scotland on 1 January 1855. Local registration districts were established across the country that conformed to the previous parishes of the Church of Scotland, each with a local registrar tasked with creating two sets of registers for the records.

Historic birth records are available on ScotlandsPeople (**scotlandspeople.gov.uk**), with searches free, and images costing six credits to view (currently £1.50). Indexes to the present day can be viewed, but there is an online closure period for access to historic images less than 100 years old, although these can be viewed at the ScotlandsPeople Centre in Edinburgh (**scotlandspeople.gov.uk/visit-us**), and at satellite Local Family History Centres across Scotland (**nrscotland.gov.uk/research/local-family-history-centres**).

DETAILS ON RECORD

Generally, the records note the name of the child, its sex, the date and place of birth, the names of both parents (including the mother's maiden name, abbreviated as "m.s.", and any previous married surnames), and information about the informant and the registrar.

Unlike their English, Welsh and Irish equivalents, Scottish birth records also include the time of birth for every child (ie not just for twins or triplets), and – if the parents were married – the date and place of marriage. For 1855 only, further details are available: the parents' ages and birthplaces, the number of children they already had, and how many


191/. BIRTHS in the (1.) East District of (2.) Greenock (3.) (4.)

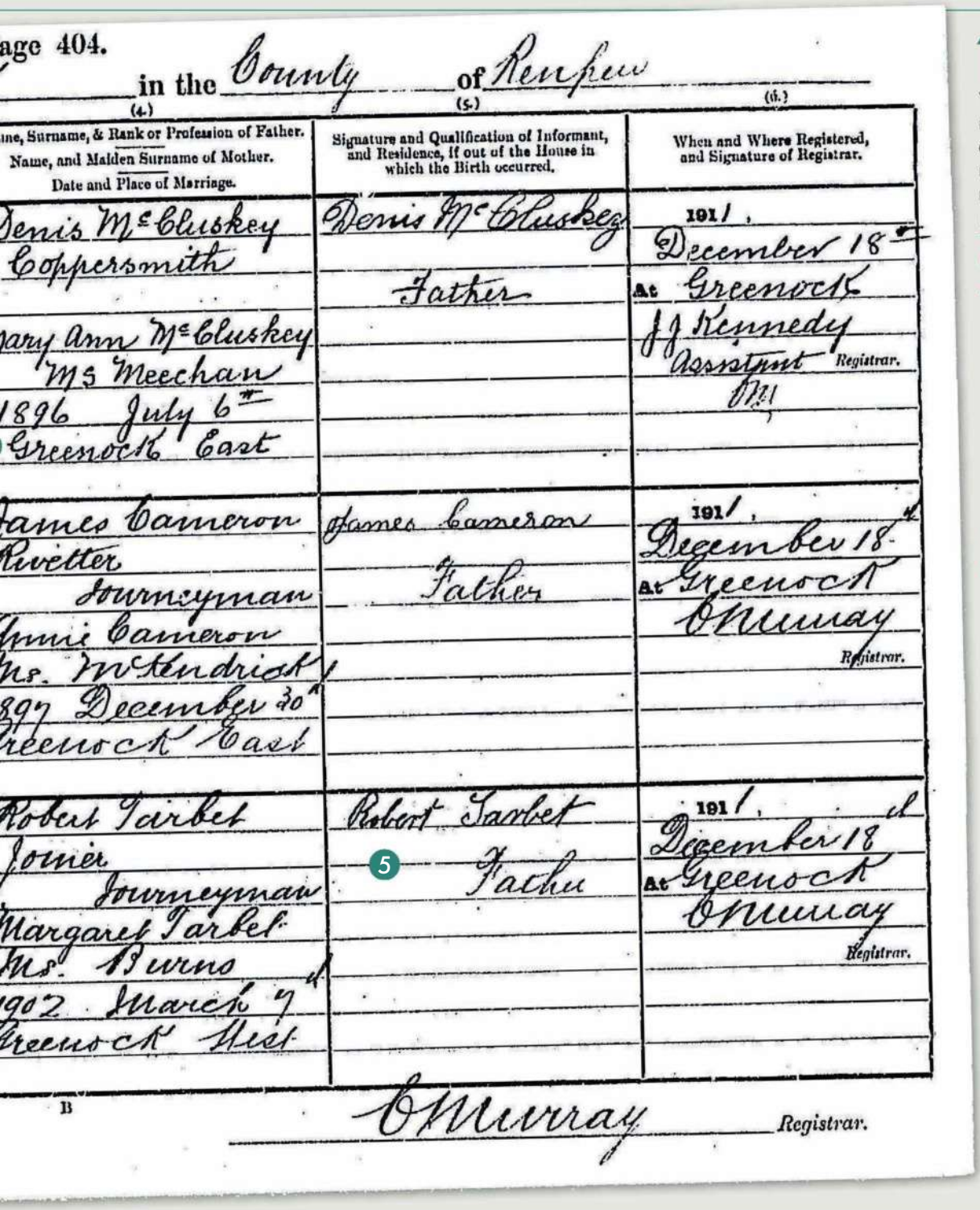
No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.
1210	Catherine Mc Cluskey	191/. December Eleventh 6h 50m PM 24 Cartsburn Street Greenock	F
1211	Helen Campbell Cameron	191/. December Eleventh 5h 50m PM 4 Crescent Street Greenock	F
1212	Martha Kirkwood Burns Tarbet	191/. December Sixteenth 4h 30m AM 73 Dempster Street Greenock	F

1 2 3 4

Records

Chris Paton explains how to trace your Scottish ancestors' births using civil registration records

This register of December 1911 births in the East District of Greenock, Renfrewshire, is held by National Records of Scotland and available digitally on ScotlandsPeople (**scotlandspeople.gov.uk**)



age 404.

in the County (4) of Renfrew (5) (6.)

ine, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
Denis McCluskey Coppersmith Mary Ann McCluskey Ms Meechan 1896 July 6th Greenock East	Denis McCluskey Father	1911 December 18th At Greenock JJ Kennedy Assistant Registrar.
James Cameron Riveter Journeyman Annie Cameron Ms. McKendrick 1897 December 30th Greenock East	James Cameron Father	1911 December 18th At Greenock O Murray Registrar.
Robert Tarbet Joiner Journeyman Margaret Tarbet Ms. Burns 1902 March 4th Greenock West	Robert Tarbet 5 Father	1911 December 18th At Greenock O Murray Registrar.

B

O Murray Registrar.

1 Three Records
You will find three records to a page on the historic birth registers; modern registers carry one record per page.

2 Time
In Scotland, the time of every child's birth was recorded, as well as the date and place of the event. A child born at the end of a year may not have been registered until the next, and indexed as such.

3 Marriage Details
The date and place of marriage are noted under the parents' details, which can help to identify the marriage record.

4 Registration District
The registration district appears at the top, and was based on the pre-1855 Church of Scotland parish boundaries and name.

5 Signature
The informant's signature was usually recorded. If illiterate, an X was marked, with the registrar as a witness

Nurses or authorised persons from an institution could legally register a birth

were still alive. From 1856 to 1860, the details of the parents' marriage were not recorded. Some overseas birth events are included among the 'Minor Records'.

Report Or Be Fined

Under the registration system, information on new births had to be reported to the registrar within three weeks, on pain of a 20s fine. The informant had to be at least 14, and preferably a parent or legal guardian, the occupier of the house where the birth occurred, an authorised person from an institution, or a nurse who had been in attendance.

A copy of the birth certificate had to be issued within two days. If the birth was not registered in the required period, the parents would be prompted, but after three months it was illegal to register a birth without a warrant from the local sheriff's office, and a £5 fine.

Before 1934, if the baby was born away from the Scottish district where the parents usually resided, its birth would be registered first in the birth district, then, within eight days, the registrar had to send a copy to the registration office of the district where the parents lived, where it was promptly re-registered. Therefore you might come across two copies of a birth record on ScotlandsPeople, within two different districts, although the information on each should be identical.

An illegitimate child could only be registered under the father's surname if the father attended the registration alongside the mother, with both acting as informants. If he failed to appear, the child was recorded under the mother's maiden surname, although the father's surname could be added as a middle name. The word "illegitimate" was recorded under the name of every illegitimate child. This continued until 1919.

Stillbirths Register

Stillborn children were initially not registered by law, with a child deemed stillborn if it was unable to breathe for itself following birth. On the rare occasion a child's birth was registered but it died shortly after, both the birth and death registration were cancelled in the registers, under the sheriff's authority. A dedicated stillbirths register was set up in 1939.

From 1864 to 1948, locally held copies of birth registers doubled as vaccination records, with the inoculation status of a child added on the left. The duplicate registers, which did not contain such details, were sent through on a regular basis to the new centralised General Register Office for Scotland in Edinburgh, the forerunner of National Records of Scotland. It is these records we can see on ScotlandsPeople. When the records were digitised, some local volumes were called in, and on these, the vaccination status can be seen.

From 1864 to 1948, locally held birth registers doubled as vaccination records

TOP TIP!

When viewing a birth, you may see a link to the Register of Corrected Entries with freely accessible extra information – for example, the paternity of an illegitimate child.

Chris Paton is a Scottish-based genealogist, author and tutor, and runs a research service on Scotlands Greatest Story (**scotlandsgreateststory.wordpress.com**)

Resources

Take your research further

BOOKS

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records
Chris Paton
Pen & Sword, 2019
This details the legal background to Scottish civil registration records, as well as the Church-recorded baptismal entries before 1855.

WEBSITES

SCOTLANDSPEOPLE
w **tinyurl.com/scot-guide-births**
This in-depth research guide explains the records included in the civil birth records collection, including domestic and overseas registered events.

THE SCOTTISH WAY OF BIRTH AND DEATH
w **tinyurl.com/uni-glas-way**
This superb online project from the University of Glasgow's Centre for the History of Medicine describes the history of civil registration.

GETTY IMAGES

Q&A

Our team of experts offers tips and inspiration Edited By Claire Vaughan

Alan Crosby is the editor of *The Local Historian* – read his column on p13

Debbie Kennett is the author of *DNA and Social Networking*

Nicola Morris is a genealogist based in Dublin (**timeline.ie**)

Chris Paton is a genealogist and author who blogs at **scottishgenes.blogspot.com**

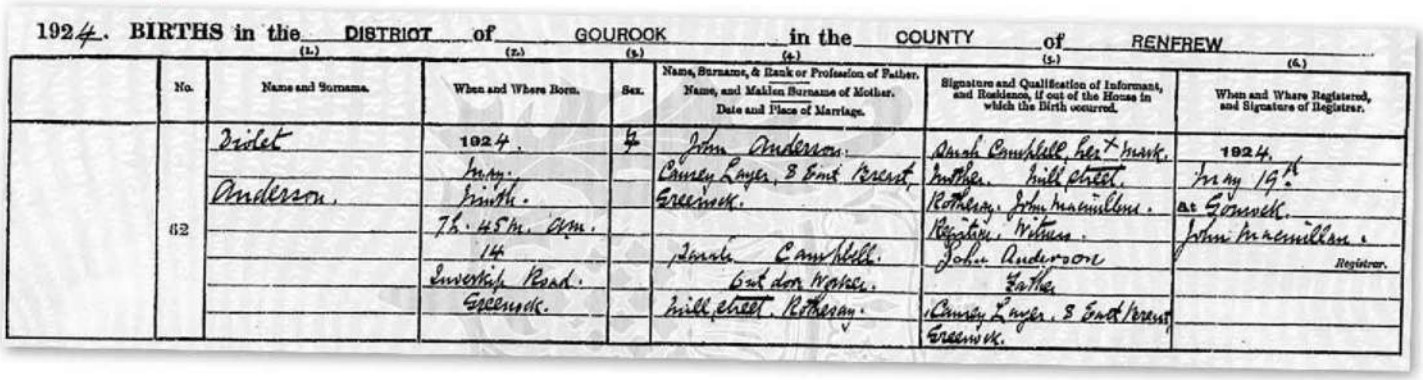
Jayne Shrimpton is a professional dress historian and portrait specialist

Alan Stewart is a family history writer, and author of *Grow Your Own Family Tree*

Phil Tomaselli is a military family history expert and author

How can I find out more about Sarah Campbell and John Anderson?

John Anderson's name on Violet's birth record shows his commitment



1924. BIRTHS in the DISTRICT of GOUROCK in the COUNTY of RENFREW

	No.	Name and Surname. (1.)	When and Where Born. (2.)	Sex. (3.)	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage. (4.)	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred. (5.)	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar. (6.)
	62	Violet Anderson.	1924. May. Ninth. 7h. 45m. am. 14 Inverkip Road. Greenock.	♀	John Anderson. Causey Layer, 8 East Breast, Greenock. Sarah Campbell. Out door Worker. Mill street. Rotheray.	Sarah Campbell, her x mark. Mother. Mill street. Rotheray. John Macmillan. Registrar. Witness. John Anderson Father. Causey Layer. 8 East Breast Greenock.	1924. May 19th. At Gourock. John Macmillan. Registrar.

Q My friend's maternal grandparents, Sarah Campbell and John Anderson, were both named on the birth certificate of his mother, Violet, but were unmarried. Violet was born at 14 Inverkip Road, Greenock, Renfrewshire, on 9 May 1924, and died in England in 1997 (although the record states she was born in Glasgow).

John was a causey labourer (a layer of cobbles or paving stones). From a newspaper article in September 1938, I know he was based at Routenburn Farm in Largs, Ayrshire.

I'm trying to find out who the parents of Sarah and John were. Can you help?

Will Buck

A Violet was born at 14 Inverkip Road, which was the local poorhouse, although according to **workhouses.org** its records have not survived. However, we know John was co-informant at his daughter's birth registration, and Violet was given his surname, implying some commitment.

Violet was born at 14 Inverkip Road, which was the local poorhouse

Aged 15, Violet may have been with her parents in September 1939, and so I would start with the 1939 National Identity Register. Scottish applications are £15 per person via the National Records of Scotland (**tinyurl.com/nrscotland1939**). Due to the birthplace error in her English death record, and lack of info on her parents in that, I would include her birth, marriage and death records with your application, which should hopefully be enough to confirm her identity to locate her. However, you should state that John was based at Routenburn Farm, Largs, just a year earlier, which may help, and that the specific purpose of your request is to actually find information about her parents. If they are with Violet, their dates of birth will be noted, which should then help you to locate their birth records via **scotlandspeople.gov.uk**.

If they stayed together, the couple may have later described themselves as married 'by habit and repute', requiring no celebrant, legal in Scotland until 2006, and often unregistered. You could search for death records for them in the hope they may list each other as spouses, or at least with one as an informant, which should further confirm their parents' names. As this could be pricey online, a visit to the Edinburgh ScotlandsPeople Centre (**scotlandspeople.gov.uk/visit-us**) may be preferable.

Finally, an autosomal DNA test, via suppliers such as Ancestry (**ancestry.co.uk/dna/**), may also flag up relatives to help pinpoint the correct candidates.

Chris Paton

HAVE YOU HIT A BRICK WALL? Please email your questions or family photographs to the following address: **wdytyaquestions@ourmedia.co.uk**

If selected, your query will be answered on these pages. Please note that we receive a large volume of correspondence each month, and cannot reply to each message individually. You are more likely to receive a response if you keep the question and background information concise (no more than 150 words), with a clear goal of enquiry.

What did my great grandfather do in the army?

A Volunteer in the 1890s in the York and Lancaster Regiment, John Clarke Foster would have attended annual camp

Q My great grandfather, John Clarke Foster (1870–1922), is first on the left, middle row, in this photograph. I would be very grateful if you could identify the uniform and tell me what the group is doing. John lived in Sheffield and was a scissor grinder.
Christine Askew

A This photograph isn't very clear, but you can date it to the 1890s because these soldiers are wearing side hats, only introduced that decade. They're also clearly infantrymen. They're at camp when this photograph was taken.

I looked John up on **ancestry.co.uk** and found your page on him, noting that he married in 1889 aged 18 or 19. This wasn't normal (though it was legal) for a regular soldier. The army considered wives an encumbrance, and someone as young as John wouldn't have received official permission. His wife had children on a regular basis, suggesting he must have been at home (rather than abroad) most of the time.

On **findmypast.co.uk**, I found an enlistment document for him as John Foster, number 6952. It's dated 19 January 1900, but he's enlisting into the regular army, for one year only, from 1st Volunteer Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment (often called The Hallamshires). He was to cover for regular troops going to the Boer War. There's a physical description of him and confirmation that he was discharged after a year.

I assume he joined the Volunteers (forerunners of the Territorial Army) when quite young, training some evenings and attending annual camp (see photograph). He must have been a good soldier as he's a Lance Corporal in the picture.

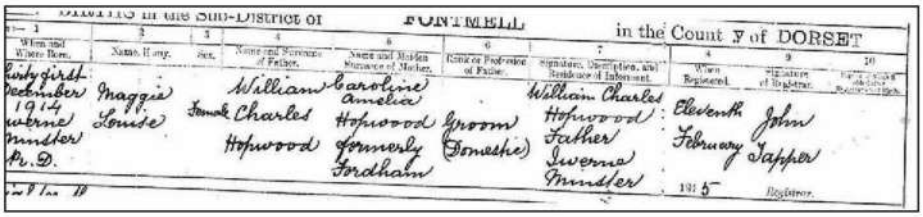
There are few Volunteer records at national level. The York and Lancaster Regiment Museum (**armymuseums.org.uk/listing/york-lancaster-regiment-museum/**) may have material, but local newspapers are a better bet. They contain mentions of annual camps and officers regularly. Volunteers are largely the forgotten soldiers.
Phil Tomaselli

When and why did Maggie change her name?

Q I am trying to find out how or why Maggie (Margaret) Louise Hopwood, born in 1915 in Shaftesbury, Dorset, died as Peta Maria Hopwood in 1983. Her parents were Caroline (née Fordham) and William Charles Hopwood (1881–1956).

Maggie worked as a teacher at Riddlesworth School in Norfolk. She never married, but adopted a boy, Christopher, who later died in an accident. On the 1939 Register, she was named as Peta Maria Hopwood, female, children's nurse.

Is there any way I can find out why she changed her name?
Yvonne Whitehead



Maggie Louise Hopwood's birth certificate – but when and for what reason did she change her name to Peta?

A The National Archives (TNA) has a guide on how to look for records of changes of name – **tinyurl.com/TNAnamechange**. It states that it has always been possible to simply change your name, provided it isn't being done for a fraudulent or illegal reason. An official way to do this is by deed poll, but there may be no record of this unless the deed poll was enrolled (registered) with the Ministry of Justice, for which there is a charge. You can find enrolled deeds at TNA in Kew, Surrey, but you need to search for them in person.

The *Bury Free Press* (on **findmypast.co.uk** and **britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk**) gives a full account of the wedding of Maggie/Peta's older brother, Cyril, in 1935. She didn't attend, but her wedding present of a morning tea service is listed as coming from Miss M Hopwood (sister of the bridegroom). It looks as though she became Peta between her brother's wedding and the 1939 Register.

An important point to note is that Cyril's wife Kathleen was Catholic and they got married at St Edmund's Catholic Church in Bury St Edmunds. It seems most likely to me that Maggie converted to Catholicism after the wedding and chose to adopt a new name to reflect her new calling. Peta means 'rock' and Maria is a common saint's name.

Try contacting St Mary's Catholic Church in Thetford, Norfolk (**stmarysthetford.org**), close to where Peta worked as a teacher and St Teresa's in Beaconsfield (**littleflower.co.uk**) near where she was living in 1939, as they may have a record of her confirmation.
Alan Stewart

Picture Analysis

Who could the sitters be in this photograph?

Q This photograph has come from my parents, but I don't know who the sitters are. The lady front centre looks as if she's in mourning, but without knowing the date, I cannot identify her. The photograph is printed as a postcard.
Ron Flook

A Family photographs presented on postcard-style mounts invariably date to the 20th century, not earlier. Divided-back postcards first became an authorised form of postal communication and a photographic format in 1902, providing a firm *post quem* date. Popular by 1906/1907, postcard photographs experienced their heyday in the 1910s–1930s, finally dying out c1950. Some were set in a professional photographer's studio, like yours – others outdoors. Studio names and locations seldom occur on postcards and, unless they are hand-annotated, often the only clues are contained within the visual image itself.

This group comprises six fashionably dressed females aged broadly 15/16 years old to early 20s, all or most in their mid to late teens and unmarried. They could all be sisters and/or cousins, but might well be fellow students, work colleagues or friends. Their collective appearance indicates they were photographed between 1914 and 1919: just before, during, or following the First World War. By then, a 'uniform' of white blouse and dark, tailored calf-length skirt had developed for older girls and women. This was a neat, respectable, but practical and comfortable daytime costume acceptable for most occasions. One or more of these young women must have been connected to your family, so you might study other family photographs and look for facial resemblance.
Jayne Shrimpton

1 MOURNING GARMENTS

The central figure, stands out as being attired in black mourning garments at a time when such dress was declining.

2 TIMEFRAME

Given the timeframe, conceivably she had lost a brother, her father or sweetheart during the war, or perhaps a close relative had died during the flu pandemic (1918/19).

3 BROOCH

She may also be wearing a wartime 'sweetheart' brooch, another brooch and/or necklace. Pendant lockets, worn by several of the girls, were also popular and often contained photographs.

4 BLOUSES

Their modern white blouses with V-necklines and collar details were usually front-buttoning. An innovation of the 1910s and enabling convenient dressing/undressing, they were widely adopted during WW1.

5 HAIRSTYLES

The mixture of simple hairstyles, some worn long and pinned back, or cut shorter, are typical of the era. One girl, seated right, wears a modish headband – a youthful style.

Who was my grandfather's birth mother?

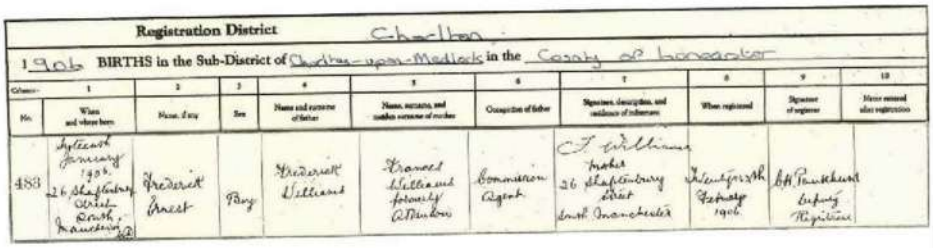
Q My grandfather, Frederick Williams (b1906, Chorlton upon Medlock), was the illegitimate son of Frances Atkinson. We know nothing about her and there were a lot of Frances Atkinsons in the area at the time. My father has taken an AncestryDNA test and I have created groups of matches, but the one for potential Frances Atkinson relatives is very small with the biggest match only sharing 64 cM. My father's ethnicity estimate comes up with 34 per cent Irish and I'm sure this is from Frances. What should I do next?
Sian Williams

A The AncestryDNA ethnicity estimates are subject to change as more reference populations are added and the algorithms are updated. However, 35 per cent is high and suggests one grandparent has Irish ancestry. Note, though, that the component Ancestry has labelled as Ireland is also found in the Channel Islands, the Faroe Islands, France, Iceland, the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Ethnicity estimates can provide an indication of someone's origins, but it is always better to focus on the DNA matches.

You've done the right thing by sorting your dad's matches into clusters of shared matches and potentially identifying a cluster representing Frances's ancestors. Don't ignore people in this cluster without Irish ancestry. Try to identify as many of the matches as possible in the cluster and then trace their trees back to see how they all relate to each other.

Are there any recurring surnames or locations? If you can pinpoint a common ancestral couple for the cluster, they will be your grandfather's ancestors too. You can then trace the lines forward to identify a likely candidate. You may have to wait until some higher matches come in, but the more tree-building work you can do now, the better.

Also consider uploading your father's DNA profile to MyHeritage DNA, FamilyTreeDNA and Living DNA to see if there are any higher matches in these databases.
Debbie Kennett


Registration District Chorlton
1906 BIRTHS in the Sub-District of Chorlton-upon-Medlock in the County of Lancaster

No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
483	Sixteenth January 1906 26 Shaftesbury Street South Manchester	Frederick Ernest	Boy	Frederick Williams	Frances Williams formerly Atkinson	Commission Agent	F. Williams Mother 26 Shaftesbury Street South Manchester	Twentyfourth February 1906	C.H. Pankhurst Deputy Registrar	

Frances Atkinson claimed she was married on Frederick's birth certificate, but this was not the case

TOP TIP To create groups of matches in Ancestry, start with a known match and select 'Shared matches'. Click on the + sign next to a match to bring up the groups menu. You can then create a group based on a shared ancestor and add them all.

Were Patrick and Frederick the same person?

Q My ancestor, Frederick Fitzgerald, claimed to have arrived in Sydney, Australia, in April 1844, as a free man. However, on the *United Kingdom*'s manifest there is no one of his name, only bounty immigrant Patrick Fitzgerald, a carpenter, aged 21, from Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, parents John and Anne. In Melbourne, Patrick seems to have become Frederick – builder, architect, publican and property investor. Can the identity of either be verified using Irish records?
Margaret Craig

A Dungannon is in the civil parish of Drumglass, and on the border with part of the civil parish of Donaghmore in Co. Tyrone. There are surviving Church of Ireland (Protestant) baptismal registers for both parishes in local custody, with microfilm copies in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). The registers should be checked for evidence of children of John and Anne Fitzgerald, and whether a Patrick or Frederick was baptised in this or adjacent parishes.

Although the name Fitzgerald does not appear in land records for Drumglass or Donaghmore, there were Fitzgerald baptisms in the Catholic parish of Dungannon from the 1820s. Unfortunately, none was baptised to parents John and Anne. Patrick or Frederick could have been born and baptised elsewhere and brought to Dungannon as a child. Have you checked the area for Protestant Fitzgerald marriages, commencing in 1845, where the father is named John? Researching all Fitzgerald families in the Dungannon area from the 1820s, might reveal a candidate family.

Frederick may also have misrepresented his origins. It is not unusual to find obituaries of his countrymen falsely claiming descent from landed Irish families. Equally, he might have disguised his departure from Ireland to evade the law. Pockets of sectarian unrest and violence flared up in many parts of Ireland in the early 1840s.

You could also try using DNA to identify matches with common ancestors.
Nicola Morris

The ship's manifest showing Patrick Fitzgerald (fifth from the bottom)

Why did my ancestors move from Dorset to Yorkshire?

Q I am trying to discover why some of my Dorset ancestors (including the Coxs and the Skillers) chose to start a new life in Saddleworth, Yorkshire, in the 1870s. In Saddleworth's 1871 census, only one resident had been born in Dorset; by the 1881 census, there were 49 – many of whom had married local people and begun to produce large families. Did some incentive prompt the 250-mile migration to such a geographically and culturally different place?
Hazel Harland

HAZEL HARLAND wants to know why some of her Dorset family relocated 250 miles to Saddleworth in the 1870s

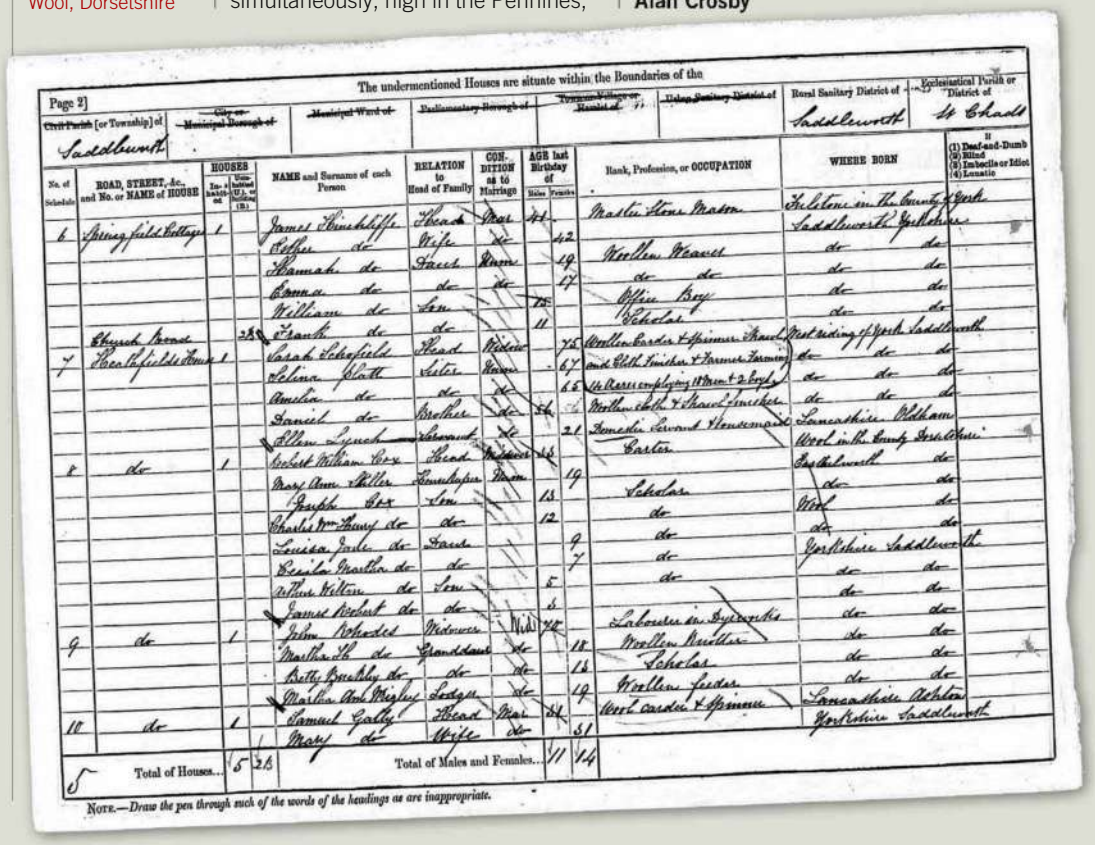
A This is an interesting dimension to local history, which weaves in a key aspect of family history – migration and the reasons that lay behind decisions to move from one place to another. It was one of the forces that shaped Victorian Britain, and it profoundly affected the lives and futures of hundreds of thousands of people. In the case of Saddleworth in the 1870s, we can explore what was happening in the township to find a likely explanation for the arrival of a group of people born in Dorset.

Local residents often know a lot about a place, or a person, or a period in the history of a community, and can provide valuable information. For that reason, my first port of call was the Saddleworth Historical Society. When you are researching the background of an ancestor, it is well worth getting in touch with the local history society. They may have done work on the subject, so can answer a query, or they might point you in the direction of published resources or local experts. Mike Buckley, from the Society, replied almost instantly, explaining that during the late 1870s there was an army of 'navvies' in Saddleworth, and that they were still there when the 1881 census was taken.

Before 1881, the census reveals that in most of the extensive parish of Saddleworth there was an unusually high percentage of people who were locally born. Unlike neighbouring large towns such as Rochdale and Oldham, with their cotton mills, coal mines and engineering works, Saddleworth had not attracted significant numbers of incomers. However, in 1881 in the Denshaw area, on the edge of the moors, there were many people who were born outside the parish, often far away, including a sizeable contingent from the south-western counties. Many of the men were described as 'labourer', 'excavator', or 'excavator's labourer', confirming that these were the navvies whom Mike had noted. He told me that they were mostly living in settlements of temporary huts. But why were they there?

We perhaps tend to associate the presence of bands of navvies with Victorian railway construction, but in this case the project they were working on was the water supply: the building of no fewer than four reservoirs simultaneously, high in the Pennines, to serve the thirsty people and thriving industries of nearby Oldham. As well as the dams themselves, there was other infrastructure to be constructed – catchment channels, water pipelines, access roads and waterworks buildings – and the project took eight years to complete (from 1875 to 1883).

As you observed in your question, this area was a dramatic contrast with Dorset, but it is highly significant that English agriculture went through a prolonged depression from the early 1870s onwards. The wages of 'ag labs' were very low, and there was extensive and deep rural poverty. It's no accident that so many of the navvies came from rural counties such as Dorset, Somerset, Norfolk and Suffolk. Working in construction, hard toil though it was, offered a way out of penury – and there might always be a local girl to court and marry, as indeed happened with some of those reservoir labourers in Saddleworth.
Alan Crosby



The 1881 census listing some of Hazel's Cox/Skiller ancestors as born in Wool, Dorsetshire

What did grandfather Frank do in the war?

Q This is my grandfather, Frank Burton (1896–1947). He served with the South Staffordshire Regiment and, I think, later the Labour Corps in the First World War. Can you tell me anything more about him?
Steven Sant

A This is a Royal Artillery soldier, photographed mid-WW1, possibly in France. I was puzzled by mention of Frank serving in the South Staffordshire Regiment and the Labour Corps when the picture is obviously of a gunner.

Though artillerymen were fully trained soldiers, their additional artillery training made them valuable. I doubt one would normally transfer to the infantry, though an injured one might to the Labour Corps. Checking the Pension Cards on **fold3.com** (free for members of The Western Front Association), there's one for Frank Samuel Burton with a home address, identical to Frank's 1911 Census address in Birmingham. His Labour Corps number is 510536.

The Medal Card for Frank S Burton, shows he'd also served in the Royal Field Artillery (number 88861) and went to France on 20 May 1915. There's no mention of the South Staffs.

The Medal Roll (on **ancestry.co.uk**) for his 1914/15 Star shows he served with 47th Brigade Royal Field Artillery's Ammunition Column. They were with 14th (Light) Division in France. The Brigade War Diary can be downloaded, free, from The National Archives website using reference WO 95/1887/1. In March 1918, his division was virtually destroyed on the Somme. It's probably then that he transferred to the Labour Corps. I can't find a service record.
Phil Tomaselli

1 CAP BADGE
The cap badge is clearly that of the Royal Artillery, an old-fashioned cannon with the regimental motto, *Ubique* (Everywhere), above and a long scroll with the motto *Quo fas et Gloria ducunt* (Where destiny and glory lead).

2 BANDOLIER
The bandolier was worn by men in horse-drawn artillery units to carry ammunition and small tools.

3 LANYARD
The white lanyard at the shoulder, though not unique to artillery, was worn by them.

4 PATCHES
The leather patches on the inside of his britches were worn by horsemen to protect their thighs, a sure sign that Frank worked in a horse-drawn battery.

5 INSIGNIA
There are no insignia (a wound stripe or service chevron) on his cuffs, indicating this photograph was taken before 1918.

6 UNIFORM
The uniform looks relatively new, so I think the photo was taken late in 1915 or early 1916.

7 BACKDROP
The backdrop is cheap, possibly made by the unit itself in France.

MERCHANDISE

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- House history
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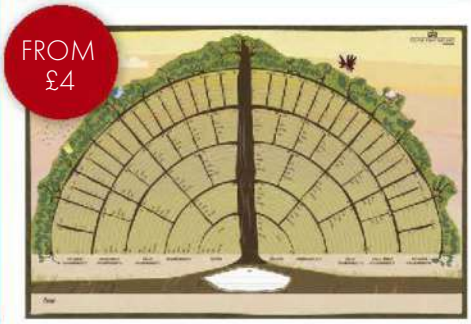

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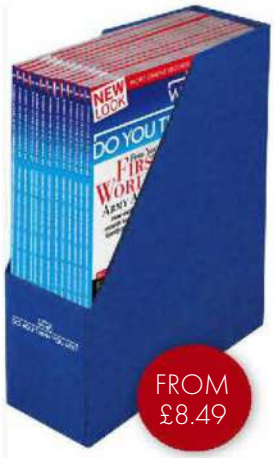

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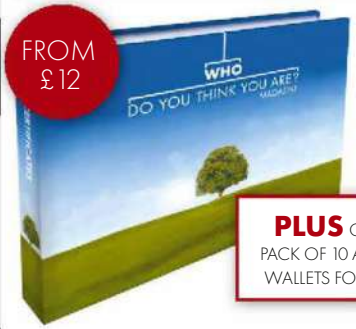

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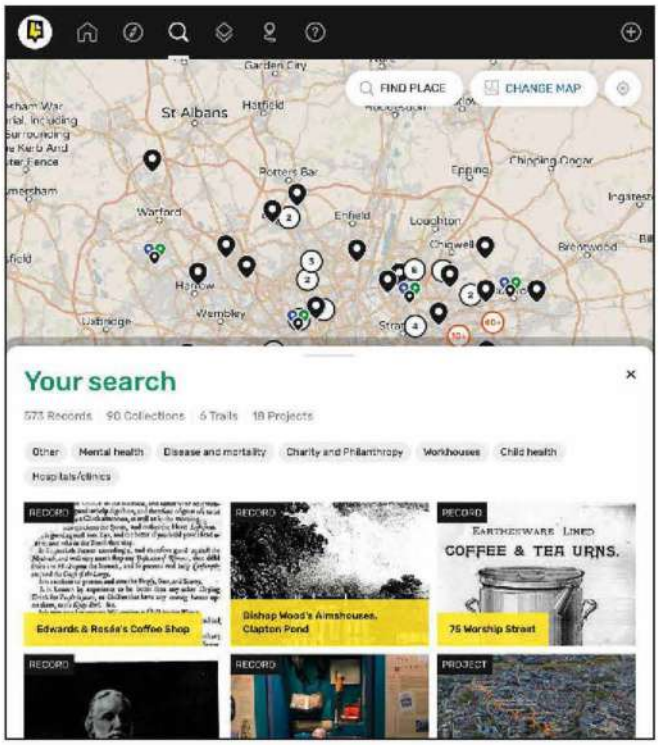


Explore old London maps for free online

Nick Peers reveals how to navigate the nation's capital through the ages with Layers of London

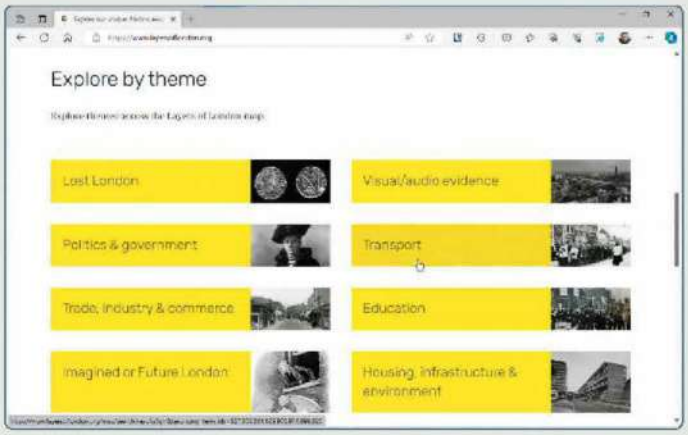
When the website Layers of London (**layersoflondon.org**) launched back in late 2018, it offered six historical maps of the nation's capital to browse, plus the opportunity to attach the stories of your London ancestors to the places where they lived. Fast-forward five years and a lot has changed – not least the number of available map overlays, which now stands at 84, spanning different districts, subjects (such as a map of fire stations past and present) and periods.

The website has also been transformed into an essential resource for anyone whose family tree touches London. You can trawl through places, records, stories and more to build a more comprehensive picture of the city your forebears once lived in. Sign up for a free account and you can also add your own stories – the focus of our original Tech Tips article back in the December 2018 issue.

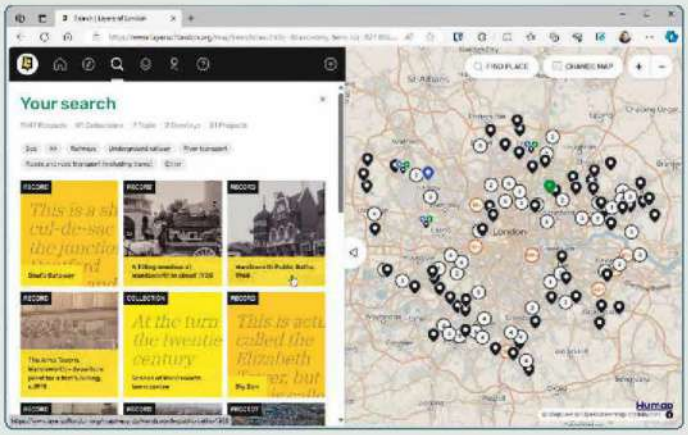
As a result, on this visit we'll focus on demonstrating the different ways you can navigate both the site and its map to track down information that's relevant to your family history. We'll reveal how to explore the districts and streets where your relations once lived to locate interesting – and perhaps even directly relevant – records, stories and more.

TOP TIP!

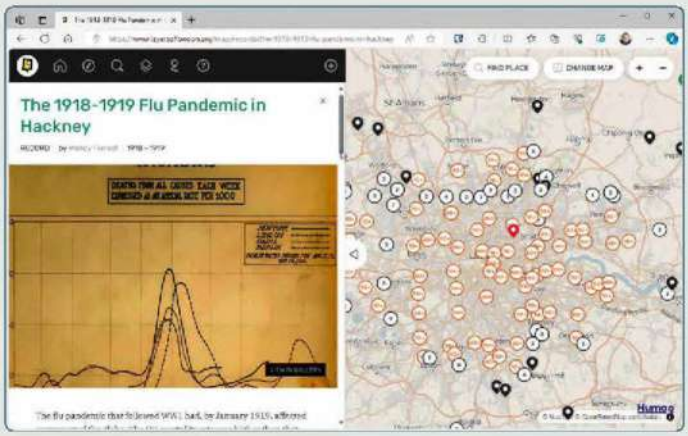
You can find details of more websites where you can access historic maps for free via this article on the magazine's own site: **tinyurl.com/wdytya-maps**.



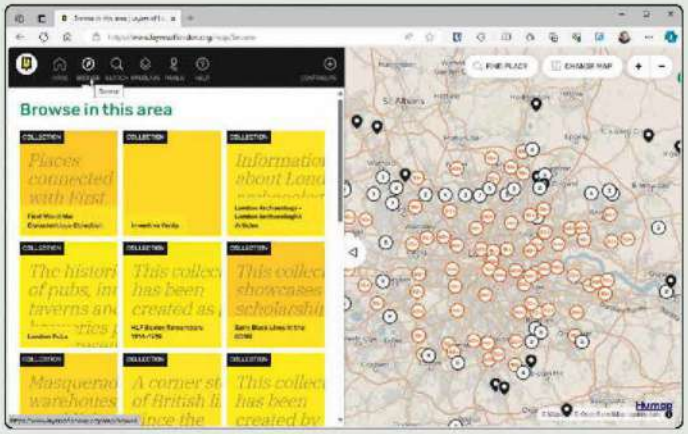
1 Explore The Site Open your browser and navigate to **layersoflondon.org**, where you'll be given a brief introduction and offered several different ways to navigate the site. Start by scrolling down and clicking one of the 15 themes to create a specially curated search based on the topic you've chosen.



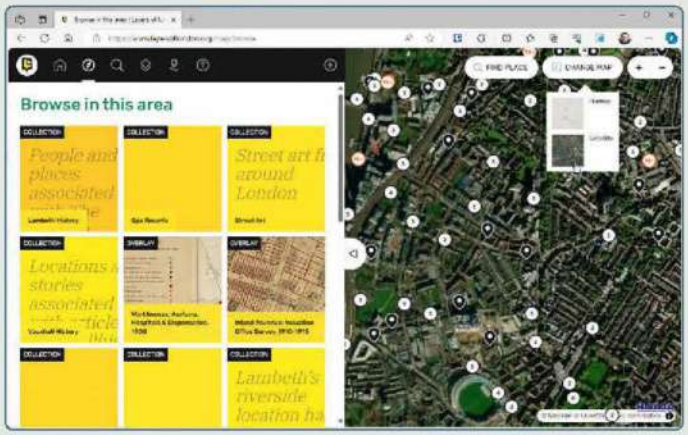
2 View Your Search Results The site will load a map of London and its outlying towns to display a list of pins that correspond to the chosen theme. On the left is a 'Your search' panel, which displays a list of matching items including records and collections, plus keyword-based tags that make up the theme's content.



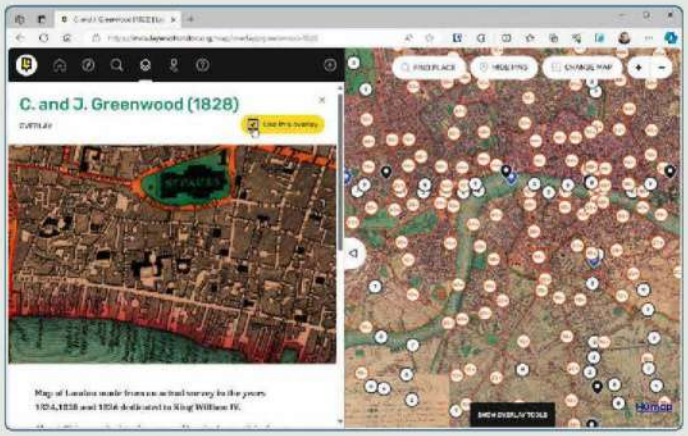
3 Review The Matches Click one of the search results to access the full record, which is displayed in the left-hand panel; the map will also highlight its associated pin. Scroll down past the item description to access additional details, such as sources, links and related records you can click.



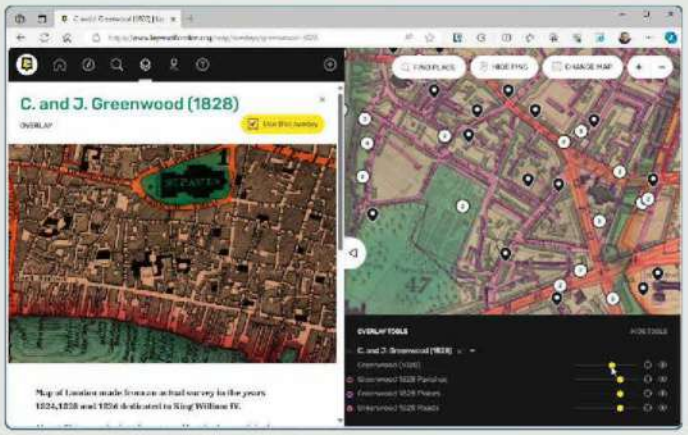
4 Use Manual Navigation At the top of the screen are some icons – roll your mouse cursor over them to reveal more ways to access the site's resources. Start by clicking 'Browse' (the compass icon), which will provide a list of all the items within the map. Now turn your attention to navigating the map itself.



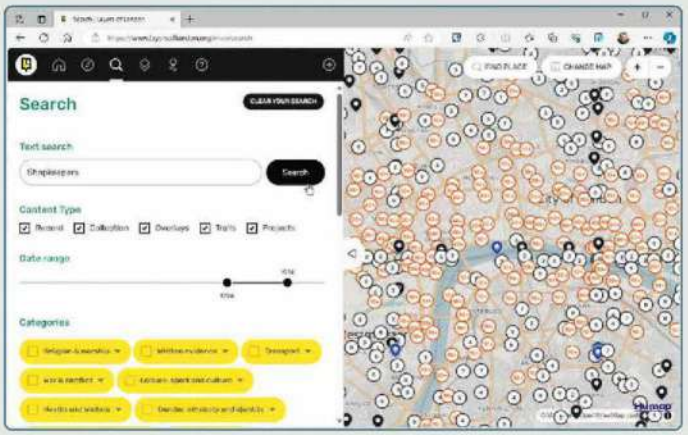
5 Zoom In And Out Use your mouse wheel or the +/- buttons at the top right to zoom into and out of the map (the 'Browse' list will update as you do so). Click and drag on the map to move around it, and click 'Change Map' to view a satellite top-down view rather than the basic map itself.



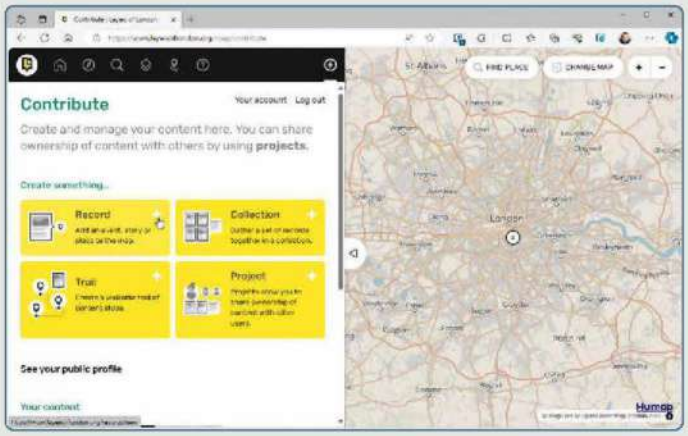
6 Add Some Layers Now let's view some historic maps. Click the 'Overlays' icon to reveal dozens of maps to choose from. Flick the switch to 'This area' to list only those that cover the part of the map currently on display. Click one to read more about it, then tick the 'Use this overlay' box.



7 Zoom Into The Map The overlay should appear semi-translucent over the main map. Click the 'Show overlay tools' link at the bottom of the map to view the maps currently being shown. Use the slider to change the transparency level, plus click the buttons for additional controls (such as show/hide the map).

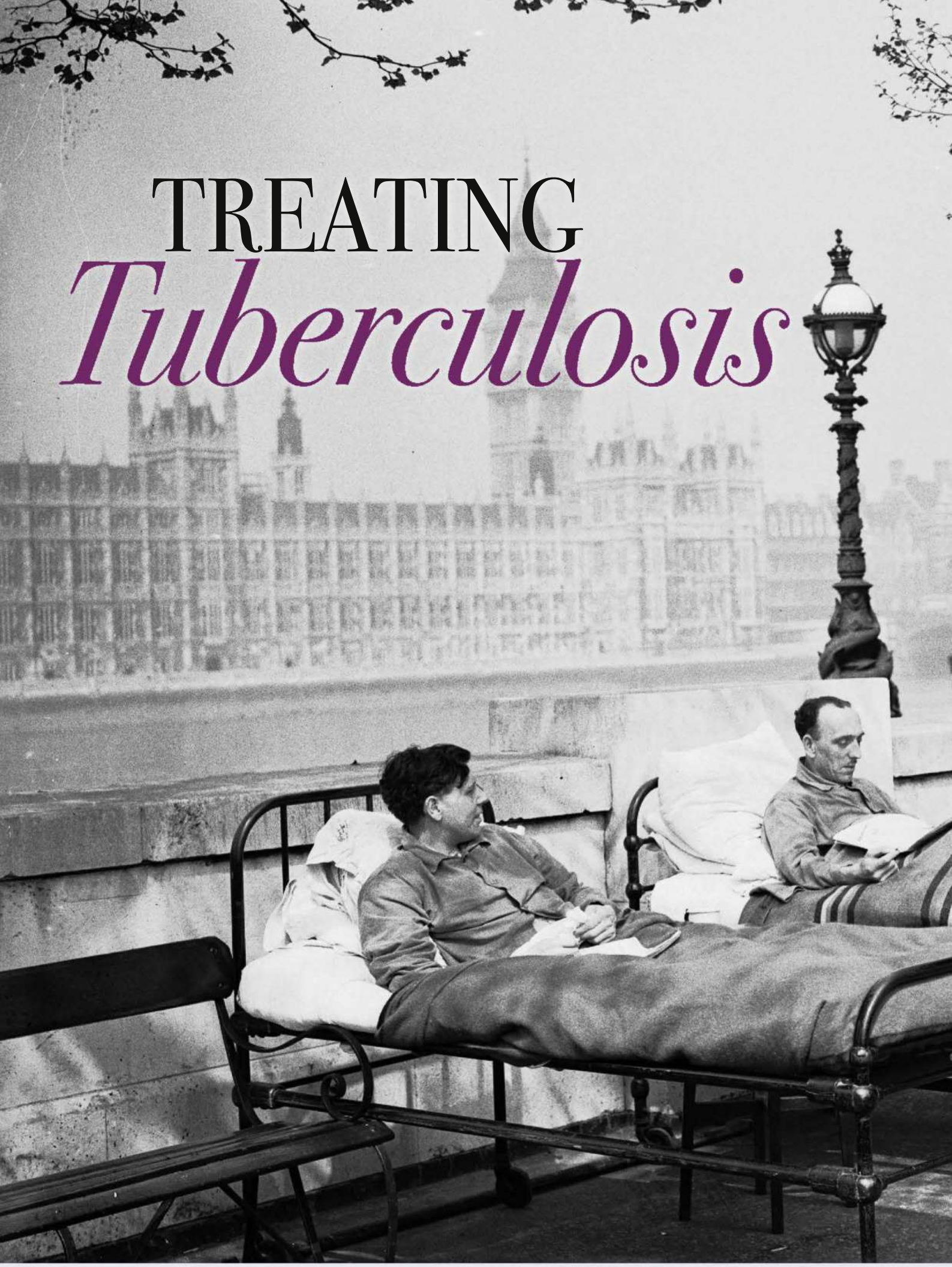


8 Perform A Search To focus on your research, click the 'Search' icon, where you'll find options for performing all kinds of searches, which can be combined for precise results. They include keywords, content type, date range, categories, boroughs and whether to limit your search to the currently displayed portion of the map.



9 Add Your Own Content Sign up for a free account and you can also contribute your own stories to Layers of London, which the website refers to as "records". You'll need to provide text, sources, links and images, as well as pin the record to the correct location on the map.

TREATING *Tuberculosis*



GETTY IMAGES

Michelle Higgs investigates the development of sanatoria, where our ancestors were treated for tuberculosis

A disease known since ancient times, tuberculosis (TB) thrived in Victorian Britain, with its increasing population, overcrowded living conditions and polluted environment. The 'white plague' could affect numerous parts of the body, including the joints, the skin and the glands of the neck (scrofula, also known as the King's evil). However, the most frequently attacked organs were the lungs, resulting in pulmonary TB (consumption, or phthisis). Patients with pulmonary TB were called consumptives, because it appeared that their wasting bodies were literally being consumed by the disease.

TB is a highly infectious disease but, until the late Victorian period, it was not known what caused it or that it was spread through the air when in close contact; or that bovine TB could be transmitted to humans through consuming infected meat or milk. There was also no effective cure.

Having difficulty breathing, spitting or coughing up blood, losing weight and suffering from a fever were all telltale signs of pulmonary TB, but they were also symptoms of other conditions. This made diagnosis very difficult.

A Deadly Disease

Between 1851 and 1910, about four million people in England and Wales died from TB. Of this figure, the 'robber of youth' killed half of young adults aged 20–24 who contracted the disease. Without a cure, the usual treatment prescribed was cod liver oil to build up the system, a tonic consisting of gentian and alkali to stimulate the appetite, and a good diet. TB was slow to develop, and consumptives could live for an ▶

average of two years before their deaths.

In 1882, there was a glimmer of hope when the German microbiologist Robert Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus (the bacterium that caused the disease); he named it *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and proved its infective nature. Two years later, Koch also developed tuberculin as an intended cure for TB, although the results proved disappointing. However, tuberculin later became invaluable as the standard test for TB.

Tuberculosis was a public health problem

Koch's important identification led to changes in the way TB was treated in Britain. The emphasis was now on earlier diagnosis and isolation procedures, which helped to prevent TB from spreading in the population. At first, there was no national initiative to do this. The annual Medical Officer of Health reports, digitised by the Wellcome Trust, reveal how each district, town or city was managing patients with TB, and the death rate in each area from the disease. Statistics also showed that only roughly 10 per cent of people infected with the causative bacterium went on to develop TB.

The Sanatorium Movement

From the late 1890s, TB sanatoria offering open-air treatment were introduced in Britain with two objectives: to isolate sufferers from the general population and to increase their natural resistance to TB through a nutritious diet, rest and exposure to fresh air and sunlight. Treatment lasted from three months to several years, depending on the case's severity.

Early on, these institutions were a mixture of private, charitable and authority-run. For example, the Mundesley Sanatorium in Norfolk, opened in 1899, was the first large purpose-built TB sanatorium in Britain, and it catered for private patients. Run by a charity, Stannington, in Northumberland, opened in 1907 and was the first sanatorium built exclusively for children.

Some boards of guardians set up their own sanatoria, such as Liverpool in 1902 and Bradford in 1903. A few sanatoria were run by local authorities, including the Municipal Sanatorium near Cheltenham, opened by the Birmingham Corporation in 1908. Some existing hospitals also established sanatoria, such as the Manchester Consumption Hospital's Crossley Sanatorium in Cheshire, built in 1905.

In addition, there were a few 'TB colonies' such as at Papworth, Cambridgeshire, which focused on long-term rehabilitation and included industrial workshops and housing for patients and families. By 1911, there were 84 sanatoria in Britain with 8,000 beds.

Life In A TB Sanatorium

Sanatoria patients were isolated from their friends and families for months (sometimes years), often hundreds of miles from home, with limited visiting times to prevent infection. Patients were monitored every hour of every day, and underwent a monotonous regimen of bed rest, sitting or lying in the open

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sir Robert William Philip 1857–1939

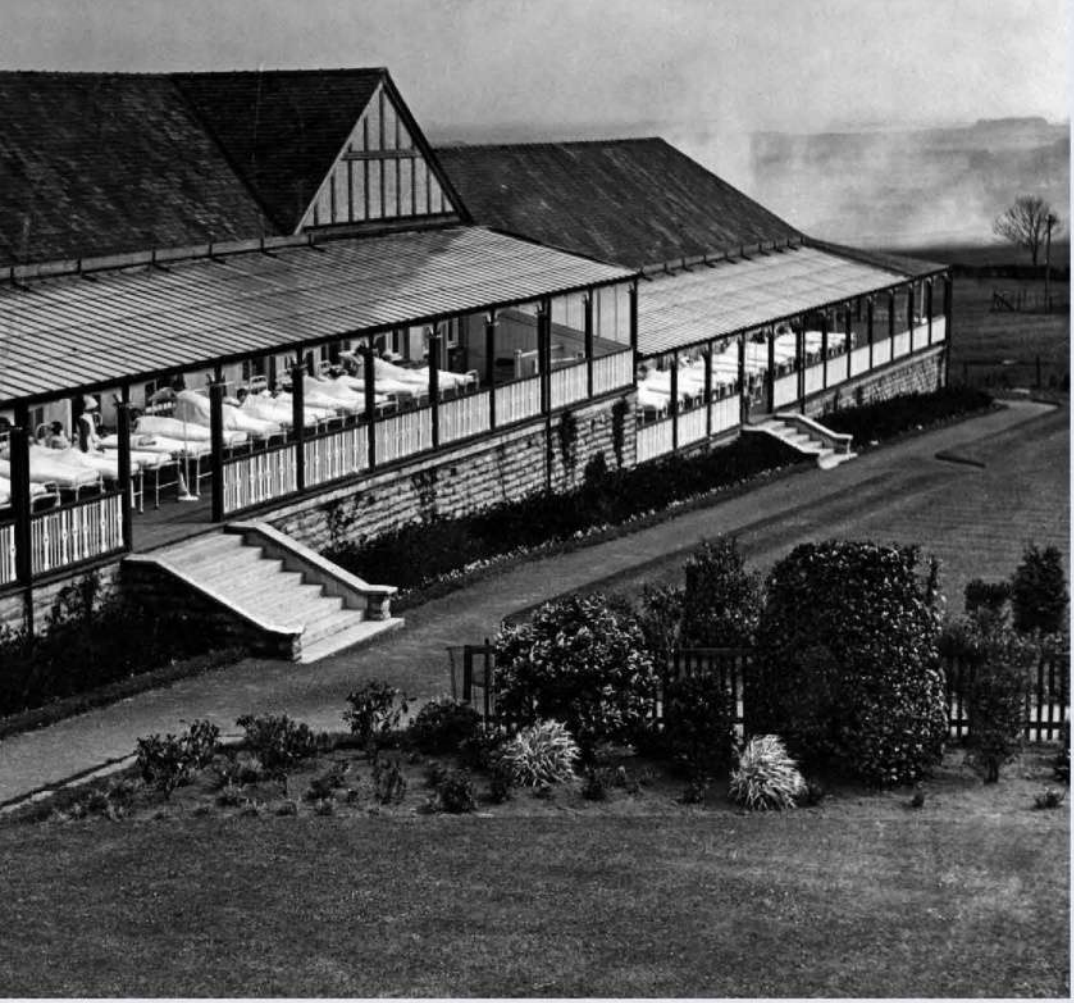
Physician and founder of tuberculosis dispensaries

Born in 1857, Robert Philip was the youngest son of a Free Church of Scotland minister. Educated in Edinburgh, he studied medicine at the university there, graduating in 1882. That year, Philip travelled to Vienna where Robert Koch had just announced his discovery of the tubercle bacillus, and Philip saw the bacillus himself.

He returned to Edinburgh to establish himself in the medical profession, working as a physician in the Royal Infirmary and New Town Dispensary, and as an assistant to the professor of medicine at the university. Through his dispensary work, Philip recognised TB as a major public health issue.

In 1887, he founded the Victoria Dispensary for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest in Edinburgh as a "uniting point of all agencies". At the time, this close coordination between medical practitioners, nurses and sanatoria was unique. The dispensary focused on early diagnosis and prevention, and offered treatment and aftercare through nurses who visited patients at home, giving practical advice on cleanliness, diet and health.

Philip opened the Victoria Hospital for Consumption in Craigleith in 1894 to provide open-air treatment for more advanced TB cases. He was knighted for his work to improve public health in 1913; he died in 1939.



GETTY IMAGES

The fresh-air cure at sanatoriums saw TB patients wheeled outside in their beds in all weathers

air, regular meals and graduated exercise (depending on their temperature levels). This was followed by self-care education in staying healthy once a patient reached the convalescent stage.

Verandas and sun-balconies (solariums) were standard features of the sanatoria, and patients were wheeled outside on their beds for hours at a time – even in snowy weather. Another popular treatment was to strap sandbags to patients' chests as they lay down to force their lungs to work harder.

The pneumothorax technique (surgically collapsing the lung to rest it) was used for a time to treat severe cases. Recovery rates varied between sanatoria. The treatment was no substitute for antibiotics but methods such as fresh air, nutritious eating and rest are still recommended today.

A National Approach

The TB death rate fell steadily during the Victorian period and up to 1918, which has been attributed to improved living conditions and early public health initiatives such as sanatoria and dispensaries. However, TB remained deadly, second only to heart disease in the causes-of-death tables.

In 1887, Dr Robert Philip had founded the world's first TB dispensary in Edinburgh (see box, page 56). From 1912, the Government adopted Dr Philip's integrated approach to TB, and local authorities were to give free treatment to patients through dispensaries. Notification of the disease was made compulsory across Britain by 1913, so anyone diagnosed with TB had to go to a sanatorium for treatment.

Through Lloyd George's 1911 National Insurance Act, £1.5 million was generated to construct more sanatoria. The subsequent 1921 Public Health (Tuberculosis) Act provided treatment for all, even if they were not insured under Lloyd George's scheme. By 1930, there were 500 sanatoria with a total of 25,000 beds. The advent in 1922 of milk pasteurisation helped to prevent the spread of bovine TB.

Treatment in sanatoria and isolation hospitals continued until the mid-20th century, when TB began to decline. This was a result of improved living conditions, mass BCG vaccination and early diagnosis by X-rays with a course of streptomycin, discovered in 1943, the first effective antibiotic for TB. However, today the incidence of TB in the UK is rising, and, in 2022, the disease killed 1.3 million people worldwide.

MICHELLE HIGGS is the author of *Life in the Victorian Hospital* (2009) and *Tracing Your Medical Ancestors* (2011)

Resources

Take your research further

ARTICLE

Tuberculosis Sanatorium Regimen in the 1940s: a Patient's Personal Diary
Raymond Hurt
Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, 2004
w **tinyurl.com/jrsm-tb**
This article includes extracts from the 1940s diary of a woman treated in a sanatorium for pulmonary TB, during which time she was separated from her husband and baby.

BOOKS

The Children of Craig-Y-Nos: Life in a Welsh Tuberculosis Sanatorium 1922–1959
Ann Shaw and Carole Reeves
Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, 2009
Packed with poignant first-hand testimony from patients and staff, this book shows what life was like for children at the sanatorium, and emphasises the psychological effects of separating them from their families for long periods.

The Open-Air Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 2nd Edn
FW Burton-Fanning
Cassell and Company, 1909
This work gives a detailed explanation of how open-air treatment in sanatoria was implemented, including examples of timetables and diets. You can download it for free from the Internet Archive (**tinyurl.com/arch-pulm**).

WEBSITES

STANNINGTON CHILDREN'S SANATORIUM
w **northumberlandarchives.com/exhibitions/stannington/index-2.html**
This online exhibition from Northumberland Archives allows you to explore the sanatorium and the treatment given to patients, using case studies from the records.

'A Will Revealed Our High-Flying Ancestors'

CELEBRATING YOUR DISCOVERIES

Tracie Jackson was looking for an Irish police commissioner, and instead found the son of a poor London cook who rose to become a very influential man. She explained her forensic research to **Gail Dixon**

Chinese whispers can lead family historians on a merry journey through time. Some of the anecdotes passed down to us may prove fanciful, while others contain an important grain of truth. Tracie Jackson was keen to explore her nan's family legend, and in the process found a remarkable forebear born in 1687.

My Brick Wall

My maiden name was Grimes, and my paternal grandmother, Dora, claimed that there was a whole village of us in Ireland and that one of them was a chief commissioner. My dad, Derek, was a police officer, which gave some credibility to the legend.

The 1911 census proved that my great grandfather, Arthur Charles Grimes, was a constable in the Metropolitan Police Service. His father, William James Grimes, who was born in 1849 in the village of Wivenhoe near Colchester in Essex, also served in the Met from at least 1876 to 1891. His parents were agricultural labourer Samuel Grimes and his wife Hannah Bloice. William joined the Royal Navy then moved to London before 1881 to become a constable in the police force.

TRACIE JACKSON lives near Wimborne, Dorset, and is a personal assistant to a rector. She has been researching her family history for 11 years

I continued researching the Grimes family of Wivenhoe and discovered Helen Barrell's useful website Essex & Suffolk Surnames (**essexandsuffolksurnames.co.uk**), which contains transcriptions of documents including parish registers. I was pleased to be able to trace the Grimes family back almost 300 years in rural Essex. However, I was disappointed at the lack of Irish connections. I wanted to know if my nan's theory was correct.

My Eureka Moment

Eventually, I found my 6x great grandparents, Mark Grimes and his wife Catherine Cary, who married at East Donyland, near Wivenhoe, in 1754. This is when it got exciting.

I searched the Essex & Suffolk Surnames site for the name Mark Grimes, and found a fascinating article about the will of William Cary of East Donyland (**tinyurl.com/essex-and-suffolk-cary**). Mark was a witness to the will, which was dated May 1754.

The will also mentions William's wife Rachel and daughter Catherine. More importantly, it refers to William's nephew Henry, Archdeacon of Portarlington, Ireland. I was chuffed to bits to find this, but also cautious to prove the connection.

Another will for a William Cary, which was proved in 1711, mentioned his brother John's children: Mordecai, Francis Elizabeth, John, Jane and William.

Given that Mordecai Cary was an unusual name, I searched for his baptism record and found a child of that name born in 1687

Research Clerics In Your Family

Try these websites to discover more about ancestors who were ordained

Ancestry

w **ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/1923/**

Search the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae* for details of more than 2,000 Scottish ministers (1560–1866). Various editions/volumes are also on the Internet Archive (**archive.org**).

Clergy Of The Church Of England Database

w **theclergydatabase.org.uk**

This collection spans 1540–1835, and holds details of many clerics from England and Wales. Search by name, diocese or date range.

Clericus

w **clericus.ie**

This growing database aims to document the Irish clerical population back to the 16th century. Search annotated class portraits of trainee priests, biographies and obituaries.

in the City of London. His parents were John Cary, who worked as a cook in Aldersgate, and his wife Jane Cheese. The same couple had a son called William Cary in 1701, who could be the William who died in 1754.

I then researched the other siblings mentioned in the will of 1711 and found them born to John Cary and Jane Cheese. At this point, I felt sure that the William born in 1701 was Catherine Cary's father, and that he lived in East Donyland, Essex.

Now it was the turn of his nephew, Henry, who became Archdeacon of Portarlington. A Henry Cary was baptised in 1717 to Mordecai Cary and his wife Catherine in the City of London.

I Googled Mordecai Cary and discovered that he had his own page on Wikipedia (**wikipedia.org**). It was so exciting to learn that he became a bishop in Ireland and to be able to prove the Irish connection in our family.

His daughter, Anne, was baptised in 1716 in Cold Norton, Essex, which suggested a geographical link between the families, and crucially Mordecai mentions his brother William in his will.

While Mordecai had become a bishop, his brother William had moved to East Donyland in Essex. Why had the brothers taken such different courses in life? I discovered that William married his second wife, Sarah, in Colchester in 1725, which was a strong clue.

My Breakthrough

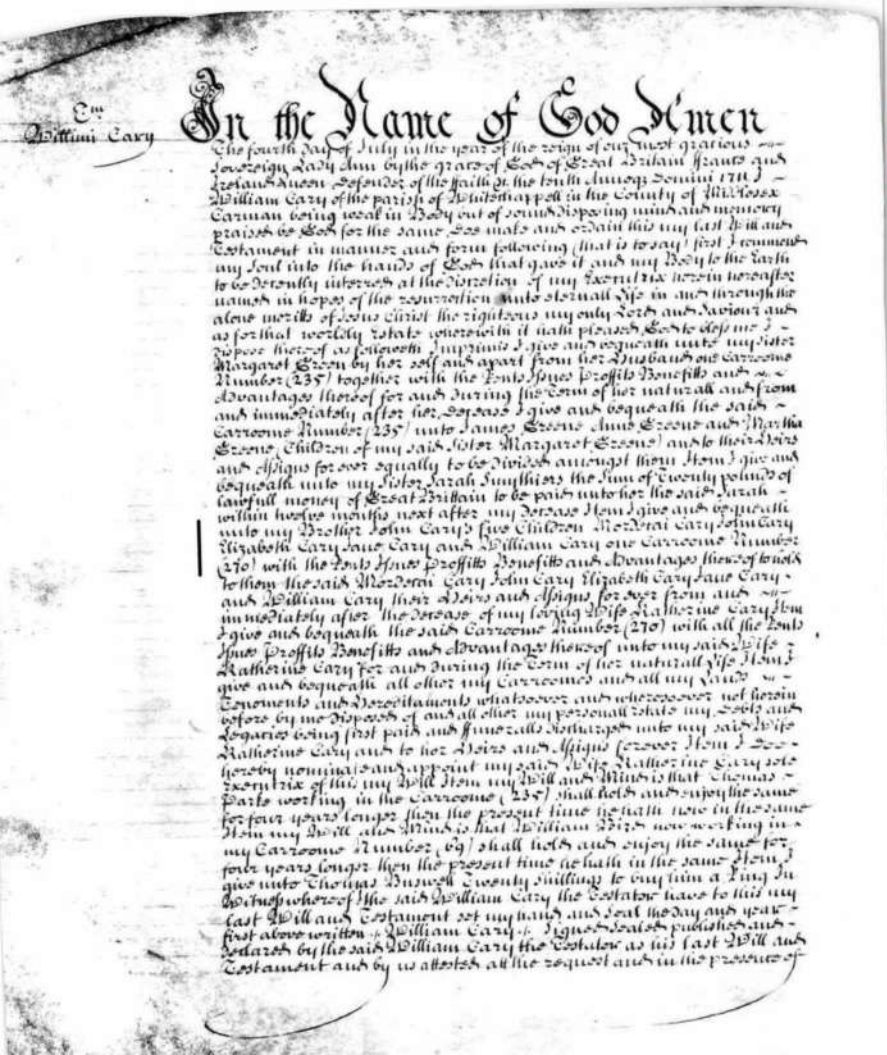
The transformation of Mordecai's fortunes all boiled down to him being given a scholarship. In 1695, he was sent to Christ's Hospital school near Horsham in West Sussex. The scholarship was the gift of a cook called John Phillips who left it to poor children of the Company of Cooks.

Mordecai excelled in his studies and was accepted to the University of Cambridge. He was ordained in 1714 and became chaplain to the Duke of Dorset. In 1735, he was enthroned as Bishop of Killala and Achonry in County Mayo, where he remained until his death in 1751. It was an incredible achievement for the son of a poor London cook.

I've yet to find a police commissioner in the family, but I have found an ancestor who held a prestigious position in Ireland. A number of his descendants continued to live in Killala, thus proving Nan's belief that there was a "village of us" in Ireland. I'm equally proud of William Cary's descendants, who were hard workers and dedicated public servants.

Incidentally, I didn't follow my father into the police force. I work in a church, like my 7x great uncle Mordecai.

Mordecai Cary (1687–1751), Bishop of Killala and Achonry, and Tracie's 7x great uncle



The will of William Cary, dated 1711, which helped Tracie to find the Irish link in her family and prove that what her Nan said was true

Reader Tips

What advice does Tracie have for other family historians?

- Check, check and recheck your discoveries. You should always try to find original documents, because mistakes sometimes occur on transcriptions.
- Cross-reference information for further proof.
- Always try to unravel family mysteries.

HAVE YOU BROKEN THROUGH A BRICK WALL?

Share your family story with us and you could appear in the magazine!

Please write to us at the address on page 6 or email *wdytyaeditorial@ourmedia.co.uk*

Behind The Doors Of Valentines

Rosemary Collins delves into the work of historians at Valentines Mansion, Essex, who are researching its former residents

Visitors to Valentines Mansion admire a reproduction of Hogarth's *Southwark Fair*, which hung in the house for 40 years

Valentines Mansion in Ilford, Essex, was built in 1696 and is Grade ll* listed. A family home until 1906, it was acquired by the local council, and from 1994 was unoccupied and falling into disrepair. Friends of Valentines Mansion was established in 2000 and campaigned for the house to be restored and opened to the public. This was achieved with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant match-funded by London Borough of Redbridge council. The mansion was reopened in 2009.

Since then, local historian Georgina Green, a member of Friends of Valentines Mansion, has been carrying out research into the house's inhabitants. Nine families or individuals owned the house in the course of its history. She is particularly interested in Clement Ingleby, a Shakespeare scholar who lived at the house from 1860 to 1886 with his wife Sarah and their children, and Sir Charles Raymond (1713–1788), who bought the house in 1754 and was a ship's captain who developed connections with the East India Company.

"It was Sir Charles Raymond's connection with the East India Company that opened up an enormous amount of information," says Georgina, who has published a biography of Sir Charles. "He married a lady who had a full sister and two half-sisters and all the sisters married people who were involved with the East India Company. They all came to live locally and it opened up a whole new subject of interest in the area."

In 2017, the Friends were offered a room to develop in the house, and chose to theme it around Sir Charles. "The items in the Raymond Room are all authentic to Sir Charles's life, though most are reproductions," Georgina says. "We were able to obtain permission and a digital image to do a reproduction of Hogarth's *Southwark Fair* from Cincinnati Art Museum, which owns the picture.

"Sir Charles owned the picture from c1765 and it stayed in the house for about 40 years. We have copies of paintings of Sir Charles and his daughter Lady Sophia Burrell. She was a poet and we have facsimile copies of her books and others that she may have owned.

"We have a replica music stand and period music to indicate the family life of the Raymonds, who had three daughters. I traced a book of drawings of Chinese medical plants that was originally owned by Sir Charles and is now in the library of the Royal College of Physicians. They facilitated photography, which allowed us to reproduce some of the pages and have a book made for display. We know that Sir Charles was part-owner of a ropeworks, so I obtained samples of rope from Chatham Dockyard Ropeworks, made as it would have been in his lifetime."

The completion of the project was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, but it was finally finished in September 2023, with an opening event attended by the Mayor of Redbridge among others.

It is not a museum. There's no rope to keep people away from the furniture

"We were delighted that one lady who is descended from Sir Charles and has done a lot of family research came, although she lives some distance away," Georgina says. "We also had a 'Shipwreck' weekend. Raymond owned an East Indiaman called *Valentine*, which was wrecked in the Channel Isles. The diver, Richard Keen, who discovered the shipwreck came and displayed some small items from the wreck, which will also feature in the new Redbridge Museum."

The reaction to the room has been "very positive", according to Georgina. "It is not a museum. There's no rope to keep people away from the furniture – but a room where people may have lived."

TELL YOUR STORY

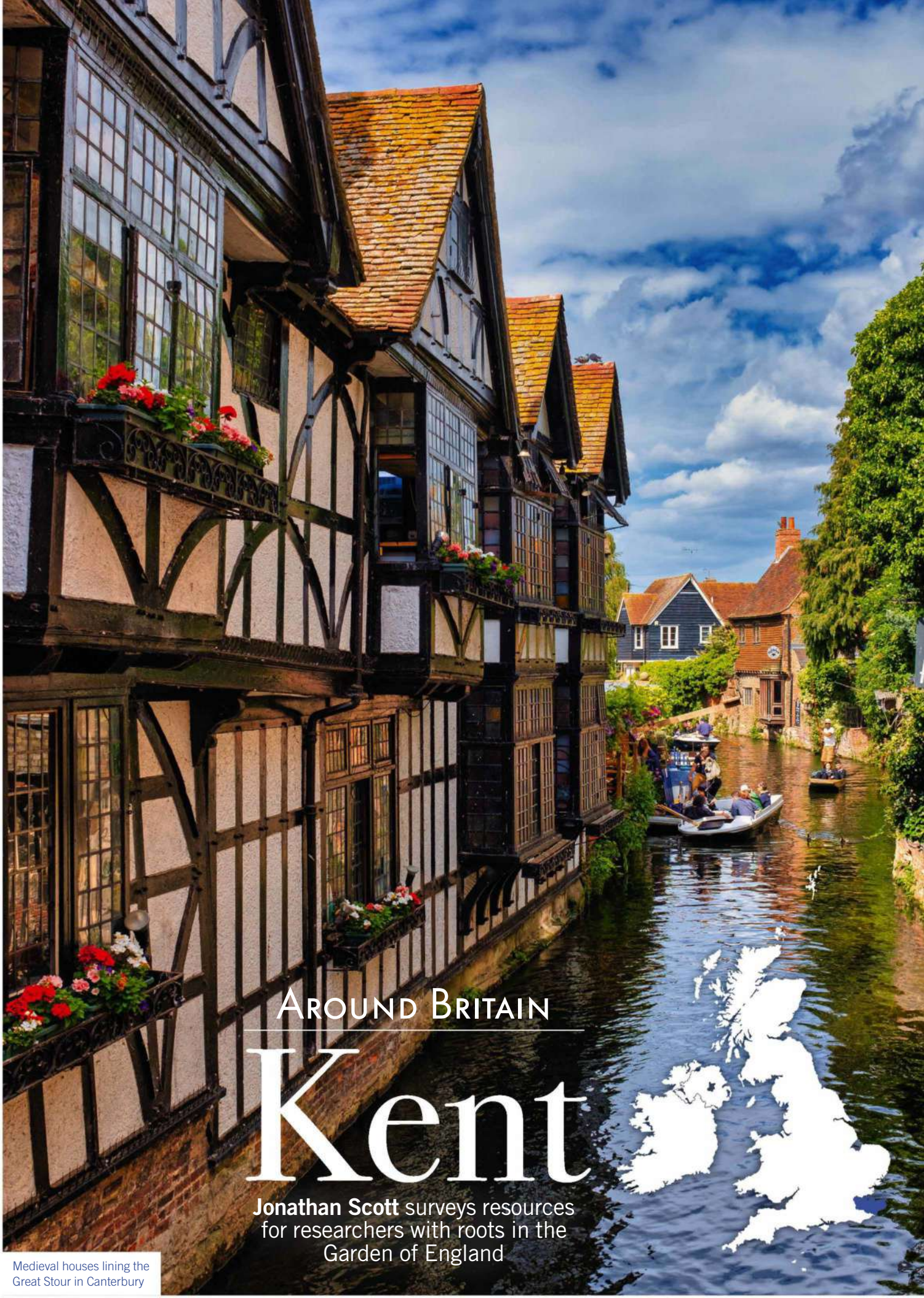
Share your local history project with us and you could appear in the magazine!

Please write to us at the address on page 6 or email *rosemary.collins@ourmedia.co.uk*

Get Involved

Contact Friends of Valentines Mansion
w **valentines.org.uk/contact/**

Become part of the group that is researching Valentines by joining the Friends via the website, or you can donate to help preserve this beautiful place



Around Britain

Kent

Jonathan Scott surveys resources for researchers with roots in the Garden of England

Medieval houses lining the Great Stour in Canterbury

GETTY IMAGES

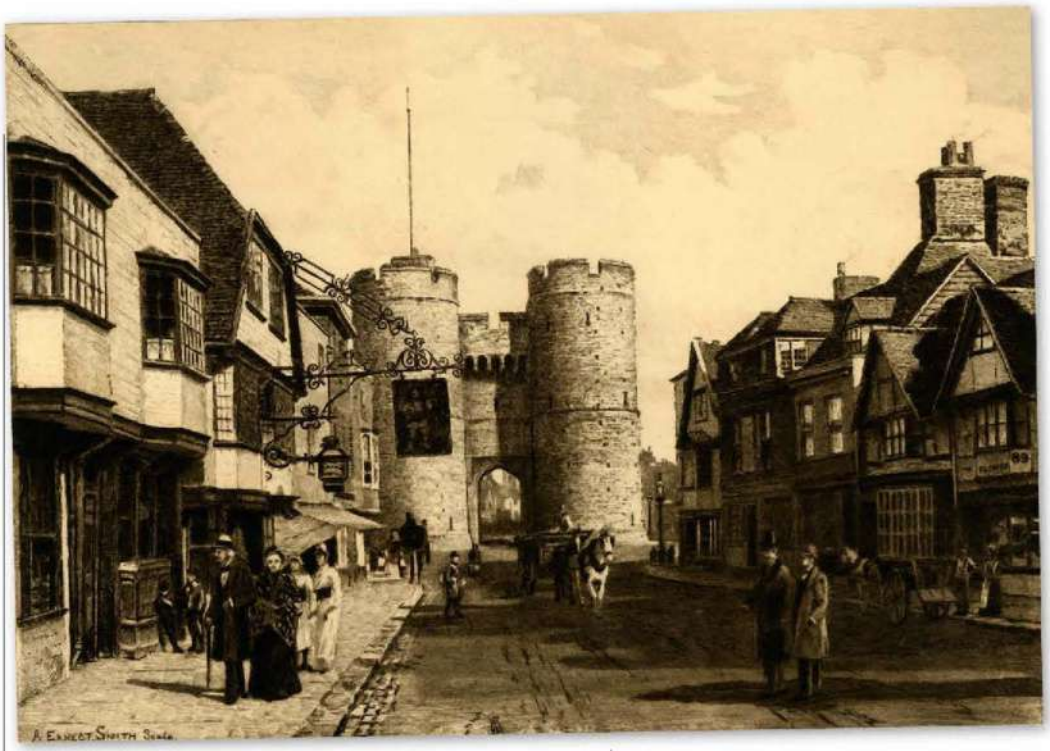
A great deal of family history research in Kent can be carried out remotely. As well as thousands of free-to-view images of parish registers and Bishops' Transcripts available via FamilySearch (**familysearch.org**), there's a huge amount of digitised material on Findmypast (**findmypast.co.uk**) thanks to agreements with archives and family history societies.

A tranche of records released in 2020 on Findmypast included the registers for the parish of Barming. The 18th-century rector Mark Noble was a prolific note-taker. Beneath a burial entry for Rebeccah Steed in 1765, he added in much smaller writing, "She had been mistress to the Earl of Pembroke for many years by whom she had nine children all of whom died young. She was even handsome when much advanced in life. In her temper she was extremely violent."

Medway Archives (**medway.gov.uk/archives**) looks after records from the Diocese of Rochester, which itself covers north and west Kent, as well as the London boroughs of Bromley and Bexley.

The Medway collection rubs shoulders with banns, marriages, burials and baptisms drawn from the Canterbury Archdeaconry, originally held by Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library (**static.canterbury-cathedral.org/old/heritage/archives-library/index.html**). This is the place for parish-chest material for eastern Kent, as well as records of Canterbury Cathedral and the city of Canterbury, which include some very early Anglo-Saxon texts written in Latin and Old English.

"We have a long-standing partnership with Findmypast," says Cressida Williams, library and archives manager for Canterbury Cathedral. "We are always looking to expand the content we contribute to the website in order to boost the resource for east Kent research, and are working on a number of sets of records at present."



Grade I listed Westgate, a medieval gatehouse in Canterbury's city walls was built in c1379, photographed 1898

Best was Chatham's largest brewery, and the collection dates from 1566

Canterbury Tales

"Our records are full of quirky stories," she adds. "Sometimes parish registers contain fragments of medieval manuscripts within their bindings. We also have the baptism entry of Christopher Marlowe (1564–1593), the Canterbury playwright." Indeed, a volume of court records held here contains not only a tiny pressed rose, but also a case involving Marlowe, recording his alleged assault of William Corkyn in September 1592.

Several London archives, for those boroughs that were

Kent Through The Ages

Historical highlights from the region

c1050

The coastal towns of Dover, Hythe, Romney, Hastings and Sandwich provide ships and men for Edward the Confessor. They will become known as the Cinque Ports.

1170

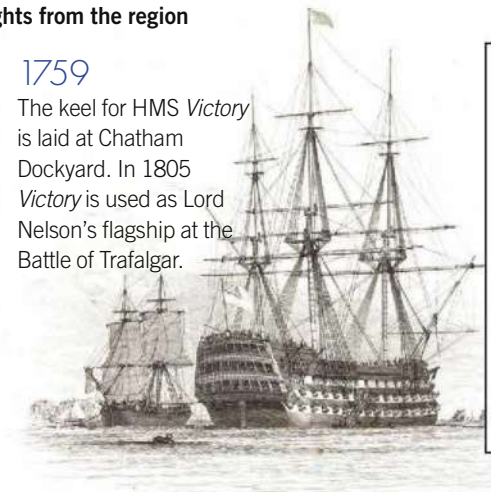
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket, is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four knights loyal to Henry II. The city subsequently becomes a place of pilgrimage.

1648

During the English Civil Wars, the Battle of Maidstone is fought between Kentish loyalists of Charles I and a victorious Parliamentary army sent to subdue them.

1759

The keel for HMS *Victory* is laid at Chatham Dockyard. In 1805 *Victory* is used as Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar.



1801

The first Ordnance Survey map published is a one-inch-to-the-mile map of Kent, which took three years to complete.

GETTY IMAGES

historically part of Kent, may also hold relevant material about your family. Bromley Historic Collections (**better.org.uk/library/london/bromley/bromley-historic-collections**) is the diocesan record office for the deaneries of Bromley, Beckenham and Orpington. Most of its parish records earlier than 1900 have been microfilmed, with transcripts available on FamilySearch.

Finally there's Kent Archives and Local History (**kentarchives.org.uk**), located in Maidstone. Again, much of the most genealogically valuable material held here is already on Findmypast, and manager Sarah Stanley reports that school admission registers are due to be published in early February 2024.

"The registers have been transcribed and will be indexed to make them fully searchable. They will also be presented as browsable images so that a researcher could effectively leaf through individual volumes."

There are also improvements on the horizon for the archive's website, as staff hope to introduce a new online system in 2024 that will allow users to book research time and preorder documents.

The county is known for hops and brewing, which is reflected in the collections in Maidstone and Medway. Records of the Best Family of Chatham and Boxley, for example, can be found at the Medway Archives Centre. This was Chatham's largest brewery, and the collection dates from 1566. Papermaking was also important in Maidstone, the two main manufacturers being Whatman and Balston.

Since our last visit to the area in February 2020, Kent Archives has acquired a huge collection of records from Sittingbourne Paper Mill. These stretch from the mill's purchase by newspaper proprietor Edward Lloyd in 1863 to its closure in 2007. They comprise weekly accounts, cash books, journals, title deeds, inventories and insurance documents, production and sales records, and research and development reports.

Another new acquisition is the archive of Margate's Royal ▶

Free Online Records

This month's selection includes a hearth-tax assessment; parish registers and Bishops' Transcripts; memorial inscriptions; directories; indexes and finding aids

Bromley Indexes

w **tinyurl.com/brom-gov-ind**

This page lists several free indexes and finding aids, including workhouse registers and a century of funeral accounts from a Bromley undertaker.

Directories

w **tinyurl.com/uni-leics-spe-kent**

The University of Leicester's Special Collections Online website has more than 20 directories covering the county of Kent, including a Pigot's volume from 1824.

Parish Registers

w **tinyurl.com/fs-kent-par-reg**

Visit the FamilySearch website for transcriptions of Kent parish registers going back to 1538, including baptisms, marriages and burials. There's also a collection of Bishops' Transcripts (1560–1911).

Memorial Inscriptions

w **tinyurl.com/kent-arch-mem**

Kent Archaeological Society has been transcribing memorial inscriptions in the county for more than a century. This URL includes a list of the parishes that are available online.

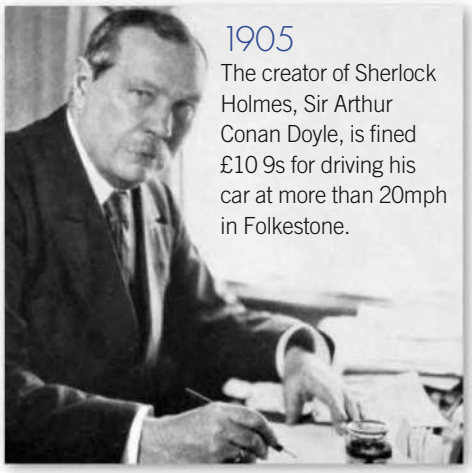
Hearth Tax Assessments

w **tinyurl.com/hearth-tax-kent**

The site Hearth Tax Digital includes a list of residents from some parts of Kent who were liable to pay the tax in 1664.

1877

Edith Appleton is born in Deal. She joins the Civil Hospital Reserve in 1914, serving as a nurse on the Western Front for the entirety of the war. You can read diary extracts at **http://anurseatthefront.org.uk/**.



GETTY IMAGES

1905

The creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is fined £10 9s for driving his car at more than 20mph in Folkestone.

1933

A white horse on a red background, a symbol of the Saxon kingdom of Kent, becomes the county council's new coat of arms.

1944

A Canterbury Tale, by British filmmakers Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, premieres at the Friars Cinema in Canterbury.

1976

The term "Bromley Contingent" is coined in an article about Sex Pistols fans. Notable members were Siouxsie Sioux (from Chislehurst) and Billy Idol (Orpington).

Tourism poster for one of Kent's biggest resorts, dating from its Edwardian heyday

▶ School for Deaf Children, which closed its doors in 2015. The school was originally established as the London Asylum for the Education of Deaf and Dumb Children of the Poor in Bermondsey in 1792 – making it the first public institution of its kind in the country.

Staff have now finished cataloguing the archive, which includes an unbroken series of trustees' and governors' minutes from 1792–1933. These detail new admissions before more comprehensive pupil records become available from 1824 onwards. The later registers cover both the London and Margate sites, recording dates of admission and leaving, as well as information about family background and whether pupils were born deaf.

Sarah says they are currently working on an ambitious project to index both the Canterbury and Rochester Diocese probate collections, alongside digitisation of the records. While an index for Canterbury Diocese probate records is already available online at **wills.kentarchives.org.uk**, this will be expanded, and joined by a completely new index for the Rochester collections.

Viv Carter, chair of the Kent Family History Society (**kfhs.org.uk**), says that it too is always on the lookout for new name-rich sources. The society's archivist has been tracking down parish records that are not currently available anywhere online, and then entering into agreements with the parish to produce digitised copies of registers and memorial inscriptions. Bethersden, for example, has recently been added.

The society is transcribing records from Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, The King's School in Canterbury, and Maidstone's Union Street Methodist Church, whose records date back to 1830. It's also just started a joint venture with the library at the Kent Museum of Freemasonry (**kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk**) in Canterbury, scanning and transcribing some of its material.

Viv adds: "We are currently assembling a large collection of monumental inscriptions – 50,000 so far – which we will eventually submit to Findmypast. We are keen to hear from any other churches or collections that hold previously unpublished records of interest to family historians researching Kent ancestry."

Meanwhile you can explore the society's publications, including a large collection of downloads, via **kfhs.org.uk/shop**.

TOP TIP!

Medway Archives looks after collections of rate books, which can be invaluable for pinpointing people in the years between the census.

LOCAL INDUSTRY

Hop-Picking

For generations, our ancestors would head to Kent for the summer

Seasonal workers from London picking hops in Kent, c1900

The first English hop garden is believed to have been established in Westbere, near Canterbury, in 1520. Commercial cultivation developed alongside beer production, with local brewers eventually supplying the Royal Navy at Chatham and Deal. During the 19th century and the first half of the 20th, the area would be flooded with families from London and other cities at harvest time, who often came by train to find temporary work picking hops. You can read about Maidstone Museum's collections relating to brewing and hops here: **museum.maidstone.gov.uk/explore/collections**.

Kent Surnames

Are any of these in your family tree?

BING
While Byngs turn up in Hampshire and Worcestershire, this spelling variant is more common in Kent.

BRENCHLEY
This locative name comes from the village of Brenchley, near Tunbridge Wells.

CHITTENDEN
Chittenden comes from a place near Cranbrook in the Weald of Kent.

DURLING
The surname Darling is relatively widespread in England and Scotland. There were 318 instances of this variant recorded in Kent in the 1881 census.

FAGG(E)
This was an occupational name for a baker or fishmonger.

GAMBRILL
This is a nickname, derived from Old French, given to someone with bad legs.

GREENSTREET
Another Kentish locative name, this one originated from Greenstreet in Teynham, south of the Isle of Sheppey, off the north coast of Kent.

POUT
Also locative, Pout comes from a Middle English word for a small stack of hay or straw, and survives in Kentish dialect and some locations in Kent.

GETTY IMAGES

KENT DIRECTORY

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Kent Archives And Local History

a **Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone ME14 1LQ**
t 03000 420673
e *archives@kent.gov.uk*
w **kentarchives.org.uk**

The county archive holds court documents, coroners' records, registers of apprentices and freemen, and archives of the Cinque Ports. Parish registers are available via Findmypast (**findmypast.co.uk**). It also holds Bishops' Transcripts (original and microfilm) for most of present-day Kent – some transcripts can also be found at Lambeth Palace Library (**lambethpalacelibrary.info**).

Bexley Local Studies And Archive Centre

a **Central Library, Townley Road, Bexleyheath DA6 7HJ**
t 020 3045 3369
e *archives@bexley.gov.uk*
w **bexley.gov.uk/discover-bexley/archives-and-local-history**

This is the diocesan record office for all parishes within the London Borough of Bexley, and also holds records of schools, nonconformist churches, cemeteries and electoral registers.

Bromley Historic Collections

a **Central Library, High Street, Bromley BR1 1EX**
t 020 3931 0907
e *historic.collections@GLL.ORG*
w **bromley.gov.uk/historiccollections**

The market town of Bromley, an ancient parish in the county of Kent, was chartered in 1158. Local sources at the Central Library include parish registers on microfilm, street and trade directories, voters' lists and electoral registers.

Canterbury Cathedral Archives

a **Cathedral House, 11 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EH**
t 01227 762862
e *archives@canterbury-cathedral.org*
w **static.canterbury-cathedral.org/old/heritage/archives-library**

Here you'll find records of East Kent parishes, which are available via Findmypast. You can also explore a free Canterbury Probate Records database at **wills.canterbury-cathedral.org**.

Medway Archives Centre

a **32 Bryant Road, Strood ME2 3EP**
t 01634 332714
e *archives@medway.gov.uk*
w **medway.gov.uk/archives**

The centre covers the towns of Chatham, Gillingham, Rainham, Rochester and Strood, the surrounding villages, and the Hoo Peninsula. Holdings include parish registers from the Archdeaconry of Rochester, plus Poor Law, petty sessions, shipping, school and nonconformist material.

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

Folkestone & District Family History Society

e *secretary@folkfhs.org.uk*
w **folkfhs.org.uk**

Founded in 1976, the society covers the Folkestone & Hythe District Council area in the south-east corner of Kent.

Kent Archaeological Society

e *membership@kentarchaeology.org*
w **kentarchaeology.org.uk**

The society's website includes transcribed memorial inscriptions.

Kent Family History Society

e *chairman@kfhs.org.uk*
w **kfhs.org.uk**

The society is busy assembling a collection of memorial inscriptions for publication via Findmypast, and sells a variety of transcriptions including parish registers through its online shop.

North West Kent Family History Society

w **nwkfhs.org.uk**

This society runs a library and resource centre in Bexley, and focuses on south-east London and north-west Kent.

MUSEUMS

Maidstone Museum

a **St Faith's Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH**
t 01622 602838
e *museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk*
w **museum.maidstone.gov.uk**

This has collections relating to local industries such as brewing, hop-picking and papermaking.

Guildhall Museum

a **High Street, Rochester ME1 1PY**
t 01634 332900
e *guildhall.museum@medway.gov.uk*
w **bit.ly/roch-guild**

Rochester Guildhall was built in the late 17th century, and the museum includes a full-size reconstruction of part of a prison hulk, as well as a permanent exhibition about Charles Dickens.

Historic Dockyard Chatham

a **Anchor Wharf, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham ME4 4TZ**
t 01634 823800
e *info@chdt.org.uk*
w **thedockyard.co.uk**

You can explore highlights from the museum's holdings at **thedockyard.co.uk/the-collections**.

Royal Engineers Museum

a **Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham ME4 4UG**
t 01634 822839
w **re-museum.co.uk**

The museum holds more than one million items that document around 300 years of military, engineering and scientific development. These include personal diaries and official reports.

WEBSITES

Findmypast

w **tinyurl.com/FMP-Kentcollection**

Findmypast has ongoing partnerships with Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Kent County Council, Medway Archives and both Kent and North West Kent family history societies.

Legal depositions, 1717–1720

Archivist **Stuart Tyler** shares papers from a dramatic court case

Interview By Rosemary Collins

The Cary family of Torquay were important landowners in Devon, and lived at Cockington Court and then Torre Abbey for almost 300 years from 1662. The Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter holds the family papers, which provide a record of their lives throughout several centuries of change in British society.

In 2022, the South West Heritage Trust received a grant from The National Archives' 'Archives Revealed' programme worth £37,000 to catalogue the papers. Here Cary Project archivist Stuart Tyler shares a gem from the collection – depositions from a court case relating to an elopement in the 18th century.

What Are The Depositions?

Depositions are sworn testimonies by individuals made in court in response to a series of questions presented to them called interrogatories. The case took place in the Court of Chancery, a special court that dealt with complex cases with greater flexibility than the regular courts. They date from 1717–1720, and relate to a bitter dispute pitting Samuel Izacke and his wife Ann against her father, Edward Cary of Torre Abbey, which was then situated in the parish of Tormoham (now Torquay).

The Carys were a significant landowning Devon family at this time. They were wealthy, but also restricted in how much they could participate in public life due to the fact that they were Catholics. It would be another 50 years before the English laws penalising and marginalising Catholics would begin to be gradually dismantled and rewritten.

Samuel, a solicitor based in Exeter, started visiting Torre Abbey regularly as a guest of the Carys. It was here that he first met Ann. A romance soon blossomed between the two, and in late 1716 they married in secret.

Not long after, Ann decided to elope with Samuel to go and live with him in Exeter. As the depositions tell us, one night she slipped out of Torre Abbey "out at a back dore through a sillar" (ie the cellar). Another deposition reveals that she left a note for her father "Stuck upp in the window of the stare case" saying, "Sir the Cause of my disobediance is Love and therefor I hope You will pardon me, for I was some time Since married to Mr Isack and cannot in Conscience tarry any Longer from him. I am Your Dutiefull Daughter Anne Isack."

Ann decided to elope with Samuel to go and live with him in Exeter

How Did Her Father React To This?

Edward, and the Catholic Church, did not recognise the marriage between his daughter and an Anglican, and withheld the usual dowry and financial support to Ann and her husband. Ultimately money was at the centre of the dispute. It is actually Samuel and Ann who were the complainants, bringing the case against Edward, the defendant.

So the depositions are highly partisan statements from their respective witnesses, called deponents. The deponents for Samuel and Ann emphasised how the couple were struggling financially, rendered completely dependent on Samuel's father for their "meat drink washing lodging cloathing and attendants".

Meanwhile, the deponents on Edward's side endeavoured to paint Samuel as duplicitous and of a socially inferior class, courting Ann without Edward's knowledge and consent, while offering little financially. As one deponent put it: "He has no Estate, nor was worth a groate."

This case would roll on in Chancery for years without resolution, with Edward dying early in the court proceedings in 1718 and Ann not long after in 1726, leaving two small children, whose claims on the Cary estates would eventually be extinguished in their adulthood by a 1759 deed poll (also in the Cary archive).

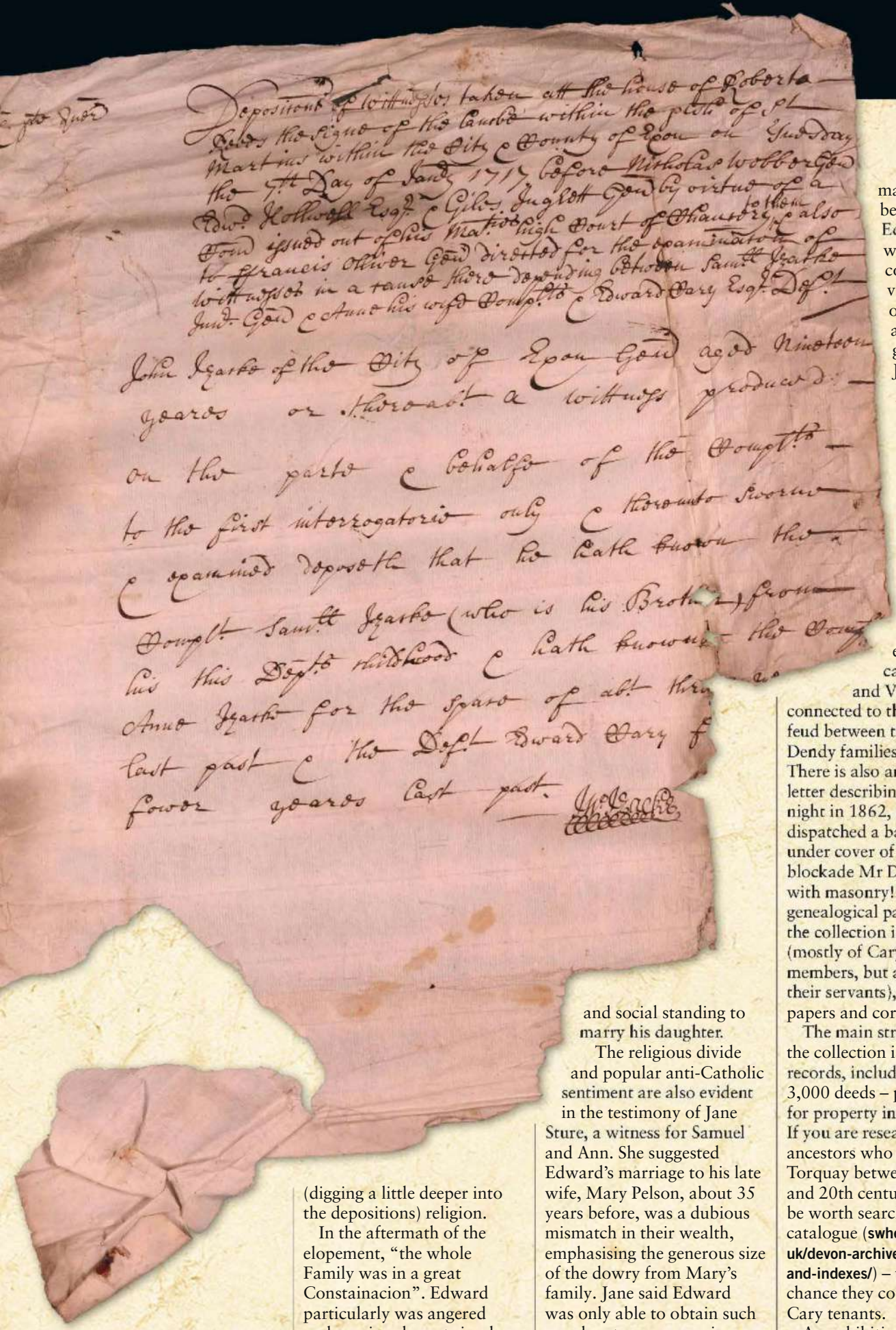
Why Are The Papers Significant?

These papers are interesting – not only for the engaging human drama, but for what they tell us about the

Visit Us

Devon Heritage Centre
a Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Exeter EX2 7NL
t 01392 888700
e *devonarchives@swheritage.org.uk*
w **tinyurl.com/swheritage-devon-arch-dhc**

The centre is open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am–5pm. Please book your appointment in advance at **swheritage.org.uk/archives-reopening-information**.



social attitudes of the time, in particular what was important to the middle and upper strata of society – wealth, propriety and (digging a little deeper into the depositions) religion.

In the aftermath of the elopement, "the whole Family was in a great Constainacion". Edward particularly was angered and aggrieved – not simply by the clandestine nature of the courtship and marriage, but by the fact that Samuel was, in his eyes, of insufficient financial means and social standing to marry his daughter.

The religious divide and popular anti-Catholic sentiment are also evident in the testimony of Jane Sture, a witness for Samuel and Ann. She suggested Edward's marriage to his late wife, Mary Pelson, about 35 years before, was a dubious mismatch in their wealth, emphasising the generous size of the dowry from Mary's family. Jane said Edward was only able to obtain such an advantageous marriage thanks to a relative who "had the Character of a Romish Priest".

This unnamed "Romish" (ie Roman Catholic) priest may have been Canon Edward Cary, who served covertly as the vicar-general of Cornwall and chaplain-general to James II's army.

What Other Documents Do You Hold?

There are many other notable legal papers within the Cary collection, in particular an early divorce case from 1561 and Victorian papers connected to the ongoing feud between the Cary and Dendy families in Torquay. There is also an amusing letter describing how, one night in 1862, the Carys dispatched a band of men under cover of darkness to blockade Mr Dendy's house with masonry! Personal and genealogical papers within the collection include wills (mostly of Cary family members, but also one of their servants), genealogical papers and correspondence.

The main strength of the collection is the estate records, including more than 3,000 deeds – particularly for property in Torquay. If you are researching ancestors who lived in Torquay between the 17th and 20th centuries, it will be worth searching our catalogue (**swheritage.org.uk/devon-archives/catalogues-and-indexes/**) – there's a good chance they could have been Cary tenants.

An exhibition of the Cary archives, including these depositions, will take place at Torre Abbey in early 2024. For more information, see **swheritage.org.uk/events.**

REVIEWS

The latest books on history and genealogy, plus apps, podcasts and websites

UNRAVELLED

A FAMILY LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

Fanny Mills

Unicorn, 310 pages, £25

There is no such thing as an 'ordinary' family history, but Fanny Mills' family story encompasses more remarkable elements than most. On her mother's side, she has connections to British aristocracy; William IV was a direct ancestor. This reveals the lives of the elite in interwar Britain and beyond. In complete contrast is her father's Eastern European Jewish background, where we can follow the family's arrival in London as they flee the pogroms, and their subsequent rise up the social scale.

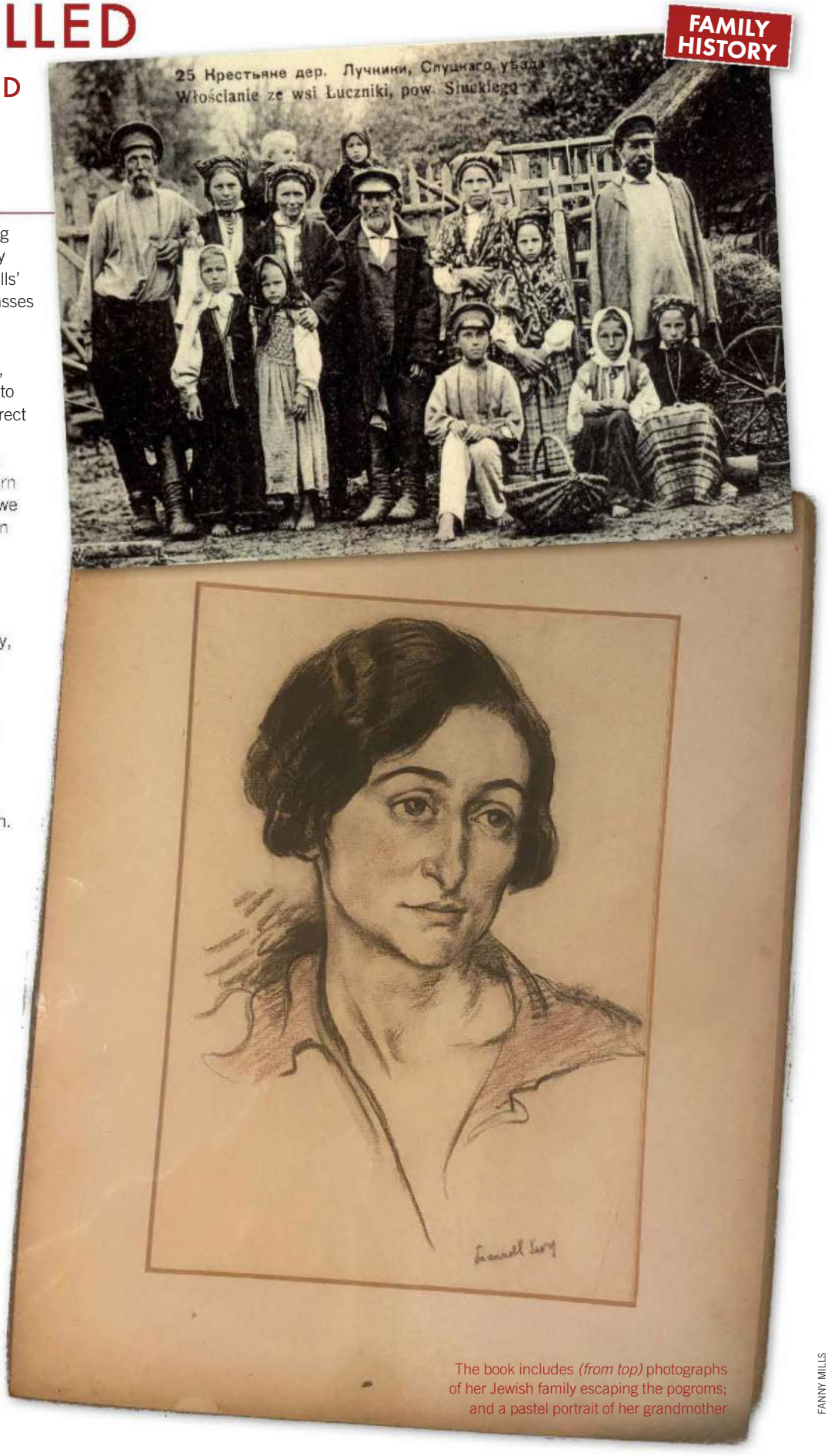
Another unusual aspect about this family story is the wall of secrecy that hid Mills from all but her nuclear family, leading her to be completely alienated from her heritage during childhood. Despite that dislocation within the family, it is clear that certain traits and characteristics permeated down the generations, and the author skilfully unwraps the story of how family ties were rekindled after her mother's death.

Descriptions of growing up as the child of avant garde parents in the Hampstead Heath of the 1970s are interspersed with accounts of past generations. This juxtaposition is an unusual way of presenting what is both a family history and a memoir but it works well. Snippets of childhood memory perfectly evoke the era: recollections of school milk, Clarks shoes and flared trousers will have a resonance with those of a similar generation.

The book is enhanced by black and white photographs and reproductions of line drawings by the author's mother. In addition, there are coloured plates in the centre. There is also a very useful family tree, to which I found myself referring at regular intervals. An intriguing and well-written book.

JANET FEW is a family historian and author who runs courses in writing your family history

FAMILY HISTORY



The book includes *(from top)* photographs of her Jewish family escaping the pogroms; and a pastel portrait of her grandmother

FANNY MILLS

DIGITAL PICKS

Rosemary Collins highlights three digital resources that caught our eye this month

PODCAST

Bad Bridget

Podcast services

Free

This podcast from Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University tells the stories of the Irish women who emigrated to North America between 1838 and 1918. Historians Dr Elaine Farrell and Dr Leanne McCormick reveal how the records show the hardship many women endured, covering themes including poverty, crime and sex work.

WATCH

Dating Photos Through Costume

scottisharchives.org.uk/events/dating-photos-through-costume/

Free

In this webinar from the Scottish Council on Archives, Dr Alison Rosie of the National Register of Archives for Scotland gives a helpful guide to dating photographs using people's clothing from the 1860s to the 1940s. It's illustrated with plenty of examples and there are lots of tips to get you started.

LISTEN

Outlook: Why my birth parents tried to keep me a secret

bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct34nc?xtor=ES-208

Free

In this episode of the BBC World Service series *Outlook*, Brendan Watkins from Australia, who was adopted as a baby, tells how he set out to find his birth parents in his 20s – and uncovered an astonishing secret in the process.

Tales from Great Passenger Ships

A Jaunt Through Time

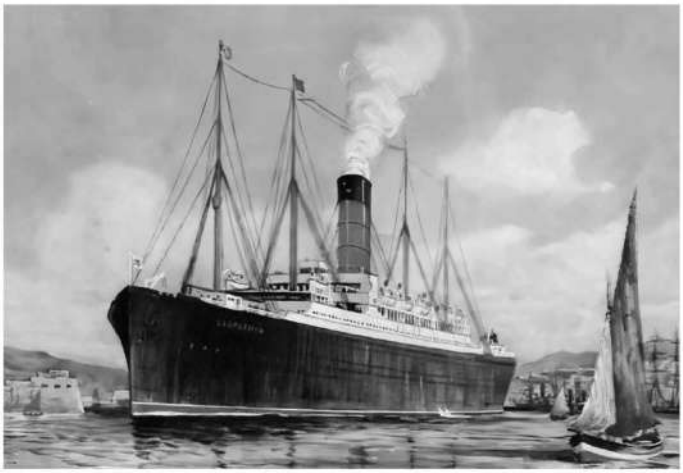
MARITIME HISTORY

Paul Curtis

The History Press, 288 pages,

Firstly, it should be stated that this isn't a cover-to-cover read, it's a book to dip into and explore the stories about the 36 passenger ships included. Each one is written in a whimsical manner – even when the author is talking about disaster (he compares a fire on the *Lakonia*, which he narrowly missed, to the end of his marriage).

The book is chock full of fascinating facts. How did the Furness Bermuda Line monopolise the best berth in Bermuda? Why was the *Adolf Hitler* renamed *Wilhelm Gusloff* by none other than the Führer himself? Why did the *Eastland* sink with the loss of 848 souls due to maritime legislation following the *Titanic* disaster that was meant to save lives? How did the ship intended to be the *Queen Victoria* become the *Queen Mary* instead? It's all entertaining stuff.



The *Carpathia* was the steamship that rescued survivors of the stricken *Titanic*

As you'd expect, the usual suspects are in there: the *Titanic*, *Lusitania* and *Brittania*, but there are also ships you may never have heard of – *Mariposa* anyone?

This is certainly a very 'quirky' book – a mixture of famous ships and the not so famous, maritime history and the author's personal recollections of his time as a ship's entertainment officer.

Janet Dempsey is a writer and maritime records specialist at The National Archives. Her particular focus is tracing ancestors in the merchant navy, and she has worked on blogs and podcasts on the subject

Reader Review YOUR CHANCE TO ASSESS THE LATEST BOOKS

Where Are You From? No, Where Are You Really From?

MIXED-HERITAGE FAMILY HISTORY

Audrey Osler

Virago, 224 pages, £20

This book is the story of the author's mixed-heritage family history over three centuries as shaped and influenced by the British Empire. It is her attempt to inform herself about who she is and where she is from.

The emphasis is primarily on her maternal line. In telling her back story, the book highlights aspects of British colonial history not taught in our country's schools. Its narrative helps the reader to understand the author's undeniable pain of experiencing racial discrimination throughout her life.

The book contains the author's "insights into the attitudes and methods used to impose empire and white supremacy across the world". Its subject matter merits it being on the shelves of every public library and secondary school library in the United Kingdom.

If this were to happen, it would go a long way towards helping more readers understand the adverse, unspoken impact of Britain's colonialism on people like the author's ancestors and residents of Britain's multiracial society. Finally, the book is a positive step towards addressing the dearth of literature about mixed-heritage families available to today's reader.

Andrew Innes, Stevenage

Andrew has been researching his own and his wife's family histories for 54 years

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TV & RADIO

Jonathan Wright previews upcoming programmes on history and family history

Born From The Same Stranger

ITV1 & ITVX
From Monday 22 January, 9pm

Liam Renouf (right) with three of his half-siblings, Charlie, Mae and Beth who he discovers via DNA

For those born from a donor, there is always the possibility of one day meeting siblings they never knew existed. That's especially true for those conceived after 31 March 2005. This is because changes in the law are giving people the right, when they turn 18, to know the identity of donors.

But what about donor-conceived people born earlier who don't have this right? As this four-part series explores, many are nevertheless going in search of siblings and donors. Reflecting this reality, *Born From The Same Stranger*, made by *WDYTYA?* production company Wall to Wall, follows those trying to find relatives.

More than this, the show offers support delivered via access to the latest DNA technology, the expertise of professional genealogists and intermediaries, and a specially created social media community of donor-conceived contemporaries, many of whom have enjoyed success in their own searches.

The story of Liam Renouf from the first episode gives an idea of what to expect. Born to a single mother on Jersey in 1995, Liam's research takes him back to an era of sperm donation when nearly 500 men regularly dropped off samples at clinics across the country – in part because many were paid £15 per sample and their anonymity was guaranteed.

Seeing non-identifying information from the clinic where he was conceived, Liam discovers a quote from the donor where they talk about themselves in a way Liam thinks might also describe himself. An even bigger revelation awaits when Liam puts his DNA up on commercial websites and quickly finds himself meeting up with four half-siblings.

The series also reflects ethical dilemmas and developments in this area, at a time when the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority is proposing the idea of donor-conceived children having access to their donor's details from the moment they are born.

Who Do You Really Think You Are?

BBC Sounds
Available to stream

In the words of population geneticist Dr Adam Rutherford, we live in an era when genealogy has become "radically democratised". It's safe to say that many – if not most – of us trying to find out about our family trees hope to discover royal connections. This was the outcome for Danny Dyer of *EastEnders* fame, who discovered he was descended from Edward III, the first Plantagenet monarch, when he appeared on *WDYTYA?*.

But what if this really isn't so unusual? What if the statistics suggest we all have royal roots? In 1600, Rutherford estimates, around one in 210 people in Britain would have been descended from Edward III. Moreover, Rutherford also calculates, 32,768 ancestors of Danny Dyer would have been alive. Suffice to say the numbers here are so boggling that Rutherford calls on mathematician Professor Hannah Fry to help him understand what these calculations mean.

A fascinating documentary that touches on the effects of in-breeding on the health of the Habsburgs, and Christopher Lee's heavy metal album, *Charlemagne: By the Sword and the Cross*.

Exodus To Shanghai

BBC Radio 4 & BBC Sounds
Tuesday 30 January, 2.15pm

In the 1930s, as the Nazis consolidated their hold on power in Germany and Austria, Jewish people began to look around for safe havens. It's now little remembered, but as many as 20,000 escaped to Shanghai, a city you could enter and settle in without a visa. Many sold the last of their possessions to buy tickets for boats that left from Genoa or Trieste in Italy for Asia. As a result, they arrived in China virtually penniless.

This drama-documentary draws on the work of historian Steve Hochstadt who, in the 1980s, began to collate the stories of refugees who fled east. The cast includes Anton Lesser reading the words of Ernest Culman, a man who reached Shanghai in 1939 and later emigrated to the USA.

Masters Of The Air

Apple TV+
Streaming from Friday 26 January

The US 100th Bomb Group earned its nickname of the 'Bloody Hundredth' the hard way. Sent to Europe to bomb Nazi airfields, industrial plants and naval facilities, the 100th suffered horrific losses over the summer and autumn of 1943.

Based on Donald L Miller's book and boasting Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman (the trio behind *Band Of Brothers* and *The Pacific)* as executive producers, this spectacular new drama focuses on the 100th through World War II. It's a story of how young airmen had to deal with frigid conditions, a lack of oxygen and the psychological pressure that came with enduring enemy attacks at 25,000 feet.

Austin Butler, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in Baz Luhrmann's musical biopic *Elvis*, leads the ensemble cast.

WALL TO WALL

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A gem from a reader's family tree

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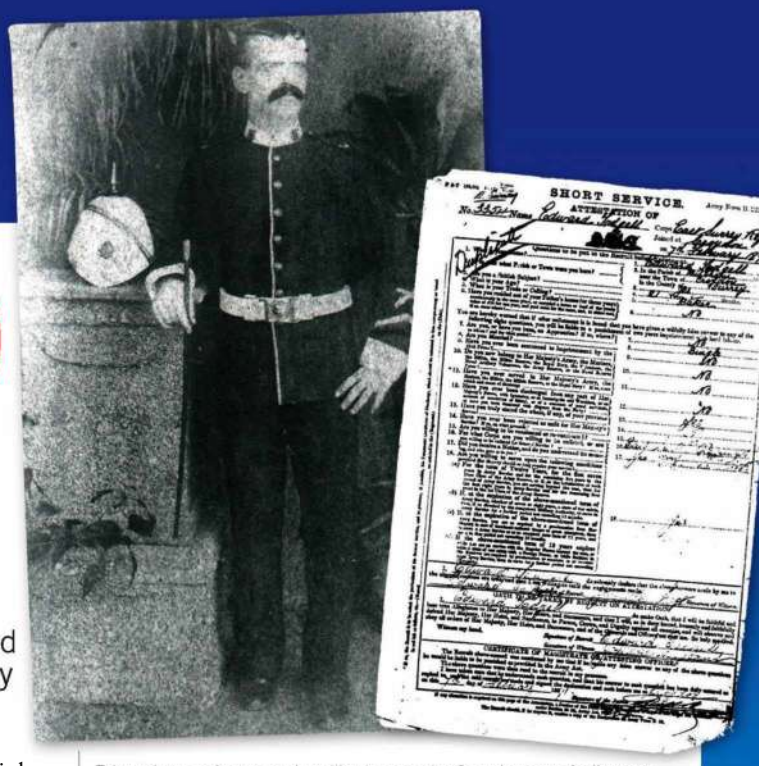

Edward was a brave and resilient man who faced many challenges

Researching her family, Josie Aslett has been inspired by her maternal grandfather, who fought courageously on the battlefields of Southern Africa. By **Gail Dixon**

There is a magical element to genealogy – especially when it allows us to get to know relations we could never have met. This is the case for Josie Aslett.

"My mum, Florence, grew up as an orphan and knew little of her parents' lives," explains Josie. "Their names were Edward Tadgell and his wife Alice Maria Shrubb. I've carried out years of research to discover both their life histories."

Edward was born in 1869 to Charles and Emily Tadgell, who lived in the Surrey village of Mitcham. "Charles shot himself in 1877 when he discovered that Emily was having an affair. It was reported at the inquest that she needed police protection, because the villagers of Mitcham threatened to throw her in the pond for what she'd done.

"When Edward was 21, he joined the East Surrey Regiment as a private, and served in India between 1893 and 1895. This came as a big surprise to me."

The most dramatic episode in Edward's military career came during the Second Boer War (1899–1902). This was fought between the British Empire and two Boer states, the South African Republic and the Orange Free State. During the conflict, Boer forces attacked British colonial settlements, laying some under siege. Increased numbers of soldiers were posted to Southern Africa in response, and Edward was among them.

In 1900, the besieged British colony of Ladysmith (now in the district of KwaZulu-Natal) was in desperate need of rescue. This led to the Battle of Tugela Heights in February of that year, when British forces stormed Pieter's Hill under bombardment from Boer troops.

"Edward's medical record revealed that while fighting at Pieter's Hill, he was shot through the neck and the bullet came out of his eye. Miraculously, he survived this wound and was taken to Orange River Hospital where he stayed for a year. When he was discharged, he was badly disfigured."

Edward was shot through the neck and the bullet came out of his eye

Edward returned to live in Surrey and romance blossomed between him and Alice Maria, who was a widow. They married in 1906, but their contentment was marred when Alice made a shocking discovery. Her first husband George wasn't dead after all. He was serving six months' hard labour in HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs for committing bigamy twice over.

"Alice turned herself in at the local police station, which was a brave thing to do. She appeared at Croydon Borough petty sessions in 1907, but was found not guilty and discharged."

Edward and Alice had two children: Alice Emily in 1913; and Josie's mum, Florence Ethel, in 1915. In 1914 Edward was called up into the Territorial Force, but he was invalided out two years later because of his previous injury.

Though it was the year the Great War ended, 1918 was one of great personal tragedy for Edward. He lost his mother, Emily, aged 74; his wife, Alice, died of influenza and pneumonia; and his eldest daughter, Alice Emily, died of measles.

In 1920, Edward took on a window-cleaning job, which led to a horrific accident. "I read reports of the coroner's inquest in old newspapers online," says Josie. "On 18 February 1920, Edward fell off his ladder and was impaled on some railings. He died a week later at the age of 50.

"Mum was completely alone in the world. She lost a leg in an accident, and was sent to an orphanage for disabled children in Chailey, East Sussex."

Happily, Florence married George Stephens in 1941. "Mum may not have known much of Edward's life, but she carried his photograph with her forever."

Edward was an incredibly brave and resilient man to brook such challenges in life. It's clear to see why he was Florence's family hero as well as Josie's.

JOSIE ASLETT is retired and lives in Pagham, West Sussex. She has been researching her family history for many years.

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